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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

No. 2740

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SUMMIT MEETING PLANNED

NC071810 Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Tunis, 7 Apr (AFP)—A summit meeting between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia is under preparation here, although the date is still uncertain and depends largely on a compromise between Algiers and Rabat on the Western Sahara conflict, a reliable source said today.

The possibility of a summit, first mentioned after the meeting between King Hassan II of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in February, and raised again with Mr Bendjedid's visit to Tunis last month, has gone beyond the stage of a working hypothesis.

There will definitely be a summit, and probably in Tunis, the source said. But the nature of what is at stake, that is a "real entente" between the three north African states, meant that it was important to move slowly to ensure success, the source added.

Such a summit would crown the rapid rapprochement between Algeria and Morocco and between Algeria and Tunisia of recent months.

But the Saharan conflict is an obstacle to the emergence of a "Maghreb community."

Algeria has backed the Polisario Front, whose forces have been fighting those of Morocco for control of the Western Sahara. Polisario has declared a bitterly-disputed state in the territory, which Morocco claims.

At their 26 February meeting, President Chadli and King Hassan attempted to open the way to a settlement, and the Tunis summit proposal would raise the search for a settlement to a regional level.

CSO: 4500/167

CLOSE CONTEST FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF JOURNALISTS UNION REVIEWED

Overall Election Situation

Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 5 Mar 83 p 4

/Article by Mahmud Salah/

/Text/ The elections of the Journalists Union took place yesterday in a climate that was quiet in terms of elections but rainy and heavily clouded in terms of weather. Salah Jalal won the position of union head, obtaining 476 votes, while his opponent, Kamil Zuhayri, obtained 473 votes; the margin was three votes.

The union opened its doors to the members early in the morning. The candidates were of course the first people to appear, and their publicity had preceded them a few days before, taking up the walls of the union, which were totally covered with publicity announcements.

As light rain started to fall, contingents of journalists poured into the union headquarters to register preparatory to the convening of the union members' general assembly. The faces of young male and female journalists in the form of people who had joined the union in the past 2 years made their appearance in these elections. The race for the position of Journalists Union head was confined to the current chief, Salah Jalal, and the candidate Kam'il Zuhayri, after the third candidate, Ibrahim Hifni, withdrew the day before yesterday, Thursday. Nineteen candidates ran for membership in the union council; Usamah Saraya, Aminah Shafiq, Jalal 'Arif, Jalal 'Isa, Jamal Hamdi, Jamil 'Arif, Hazim Hashim, Husayn 'Abd-al-Raziq, Samir Tddus, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah, Fathi Rizq, Kamal 'Arafah, Lutfi 'Abd-al-'Azim, Muhammad al-Hayawan, Muhammad Salmawi, Muhammad 'Awad, Muhyi-al-Din Fikri, Mas'ad Sadiq and Maurice 'Aziz.

The legal quorum stipulated for holding the general assembly had not met by 1330 hours in the afternoon, and a recess of 1 hour was given, during which 57 members appeared; finally, the quorum was met, the journalists massed in the first floor of the union and the general assembly started its session by discussing the agenda and approving the budget.

At the beginning of the session, the union head Salah Jalal spoke, welcoming the journalists and stating that the day of the elections was "the day of the journalists," who were brothers no matter how their opinions might differ, because they were all working and speaking in the name of Egypt.

The head of the Journalists Union said, "In the past 2 years, the council of the Journalists Union has gone through the harshest times the Journalists' Union has experienced. The problems and vexations have been numerous, and the council has tried, under all circumstances, to be an /illegible/ council for the press and the journalists."

Salah Jalal reviewed the achievements of the union council, foremost of which was getting pensions increased by 50 percent in honor of the older people working in the press and keeping journalists from being transferred to retirement before age 60. Regarding the union's economic independence, he said that the aid the government provided, which was 200,000 pounds, was not a handout, and that the right to own the property on which the site of the union is located, had been obtained; that was worth 3 million pounds, and an investment plan had been made for realizing an income and revenues.

After that, some recommendations were read out, among them two presented by the journalist Jamal Hamdi. The first recommendation called for the general assembly to assign the union council to reach collective labor agreements with the owners of press organizations or the people they appointed in their place, in order to realize the best conditions for journalists. This recommendation met with unanimous agreement. The second recommendation involved an effort to have the period of work of military editors in wartime computed double when pensions were calculated. During the discussion of the third recommendation, that the union council perform a job study, provided that priority in appointments to press organizations went to graduates of journalism departments and that the law on the union be changed to consider them as member affiliates, some members raised objections, while most young journalists declared their agreement with this recommendation. The journalist Aminah Shafiq presented the draft of a statement by the general assembly, and after that unanimous agreement was given to the union budget.

The voting process began at 1515 hours in the afternoon /and went on/ until 1700 hours in the evening. When the voting ended, the specialized committees started the process of counting the votes, in the presence of candidates' representatives, and this lasted until 2000 hours, when the fact that Salah Jalal had once again won the position of union head was declared. At 2030 hours the process of counting the votes on /council/ members started.

Council Election Results

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 6 Mar 83 p 6

/Text/ The results of the elections of members to the council of the Union of Journalists were announced early yesterday morning. Winning the position of union head was Salah Jalal, who obtained 476 votes, as compared to the 473

votes obtained by his opponent Kamil Zuhayri. Winning membership in the union council were Aminah Shafiq, with 555 votes, Jalal 'Arif, with 463 votes, Jalal 'Isa, with 429 votes, winning terms of more than 10 years, and Usamah Saraya, with 419 votes, Muhammad Salmawi, with 416 votes, and Mahmud 'Awad, with 410 votes.

The people who did not win were Husayn 'Abd-al-Raziq, editor in chief of the newspaper AL-AHALI, who got 398 votes, Muhammad al-Hayawan, who got 385 votes, Jamal Hamdi, who got 378 votes, Fathi Riaz, with 339 votes, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah, with 287 votes, Dr Lutfi 'Abd-al-'Azim, with 252 votes, Muhyi-al-Din Fikri, with 184 votes, Hazim Hashim, with 167 votes, Jamil 'Arif, with 159 votes, Kamal 'Arafah, with 105 votes, Maurice 'Aziz, with 98 votes, Samir Tadrus, with 91 votes, and Sa'd Sadiq, with 48 votes.

Probity of Elections Probed

/Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 7 Mar 83 p 3/

/Text/ Hamad Farghali, member of the council of the Journalists Union and chairman of the ballot-counting committee, cast doubts on the results of the elections that took place for the position of union head. Ahmad Farghali announced that the results were that Salah Jalal had won by three votes; Kamil Zuhayri got 473 votes while Salah Jalal got 476.

A few minutes after the declaration of the results, it was announced that three valid ballots for Kamil Zuhayri had not been counted; thus each of the two candidates obtained an equal number of votes.

A voter had put one ballot in the members' box incorrectly. Another ballot had been written out in an unclear manner, and a third ballot in Box 11 had not been counted.

Some people refused to hold a recount after the results were declared, on grounds that the contestation of the election results should be done before the judiciary.

The legal quorum of 965 votes ought to have been met for the general assembly to have discussed the recommendations that were presented and given agreement to the budget at 1200 hours. The meeting was postponed until 1300 hours because the quorum had not been met, and then was postponed again, until finally it was met at 1345 hours.

The only proposal that did not meet with the general assembly's agreement was to have graduates of the Department of Journalism obtain affiliate membership in the Journalists' Union.

The other remaining proposals submitted to the general assembly received approval:

A draft resolution that the union council should receive a delegation to conclude collective agreements with the owners of press organizations to obtain the best terms for journalists.

A third draft demanding that newspapers should offer space in which the people could express their views. The draft stated that the Egyptian journalists wanted a comprehensive change in press organizations, not changes of individuals but a change in approach. The draft described the nationwide papers as expressing the government's view only, whereas the opposition papers expressed the view of the people.

Female Journalists Committees

AL-AHRAR asked Dr Yusuf Idris why the draft presented by him to discuss conditions in the journalistic profession and the condition that had befallen it had not been broached.

Yusuf Idris stated "The right and the left had agreed to close the door to discussion and start the balloting. Therefore I was not able to present my draft to the general assembly."

The odd thing is that Ibrahim Hifni, the third candidate to the position of union head, who declared that he was withdrawing on behalf of Kamil Zihayri a day before the elections, got one vote, and Jalal-al-Din al-Hamamsi got another vote, even though he was not a candidate in these elections.

Kamil Zuhayri got 153 votes from the first three committees, while Salah Jalal got 114, for a difference of 39 votes. These were female journalists' committees.

The results of the elections then began to swing in Salah Jalal's favor, starting with the fourth box. The difference held at one vote in Jalal's favor until the counting of the tenth box had been completed.

This helped put the nerves of the people siding with either candidate on edge, and people's nerves remained on edge until the final moment, when the counting of the last box was completed.

After the counting of the 11th box, Salah Jalal pulled ahead by five votes, then obtained just 49 votes, and the difference in Salah Jalal's favor at the end was just three votes.

The Propriety of the Elections

The journalists were unanimous in agreeing that the elections had been proper and that the press institutions had not intervened directly.

Kamil Zihayri's supporters demanded that a change be made, starting with the union, which would be the beginning of a change that would occur throughout the society, claiming that lack of change would mean approval of the September decrees and the period of al-Sadat's rule.

Salah Jalal's partisans concentrated on the fact that change could take place with a change in the new circumstances and climate and that the September 1981 decrees had marked the end of a regime that had ended and would not return.

A host of problems await the new union council, which is composed of Salah Jalal, Aminah Shafiq, Jalal 'Arif, Jalal'Isa, Usamah Sarayah, Muhammad al-Salmawi, Mahmud 'Awad and the old members. Among them are:

Inserting amendments in the new bill in some press organizations, resolving the problems between many journalists and their organizations, which can no longer be put off, fulfilling previous promises, purging the union of hangers-on who are not journalists but keep visiting the union and giving the profession of journalism a bad name, and destroying the powers of the board chairmen and putting an end to their oppressive conduct.

Problems of Union Reviewed

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Mar 83 p 5

/Text/ The Journalists Union elections are over, and the discussion has begun on the need to resolve the journalists' accumulated problems, whose resolution will need good intentions, indeed a strong desire for a solution, and a conviction that the union is of importance in serving the journalists and not the government or some statute. This is an easy task but it could become difficult. However, in any event, we wish the new council and its union head success in resolving the journalists' issues and in defending the profession and its members in the face of the recurrent, routine charges to which the profession has been exposed from time to time, and we congratulate them for the confidence their brethren have given them. I would like to stress, lest we forget, that the issue of the union's independence was one of the most prominent subjects raised in the elections and one on which there was a great deal of talk. Why shouldn't the union's independence from all powers, the Ministry of Information, the Information Department and all official bodies, be asserted? Unless its economic independence is reaffirmed and it keeps from becoming the appendage of some body or another, talk about these matters will again reappear, whether in the coming elections or in the period between the meetings of the two assemblies. We hope that the council members' failure to attend the council sessions and to attend the union at various times will not be repeated, so that they will be able to see with their own eyes how the union, over the past 2 years, has been turned into a club.

The union must win back its ideas, its status and its respect, and it must be a platform for men of ideas and the pen, and not for other things. The union's club, through the services it offers, must continue to be the site where young journalists will find their proper place, and it must be a respected site, so that the other journalists may find in it room to breathe, a safe place for their conversations and a well-kept area for important guests and their own activities if necessary. That requires that the members of the council frequent their union and that their attendance not be confined to appearances at the general assembly. Our union occupies the most beautiful site in the center of the city, but, unfortunately, it has been neglected, because some people consider it to be a stepping-stone to actual power and positions, or a place for holding parties. Therefore we state that we will not let our union fall prey to various forces; we will protect it from all acts of manipulation and

exploitation, so that we can return once again to the meeting place of people of ideas, opinions and the pen.

We will not enumerate the instances in which the union has been manipulated in the past, because we hope for reform in the future. We state that the call for reform will not end with the conclusion of the elections; rather, we will stand up and face all violations of the spirit of the union and our brothers as well, so that this lofty edifice may regain its splendor, its sublimity and its status, and will come to have influence on everything that is related to thought, opinion and the service of the exalted profession in Egypt, the press, and the freedom of the press.

Some observations on what went on at the general assembly remain.

First, everyone who wants to know should know that the general assembly and the meetings that preceded it, in spite of their small attendance, were a debating arena for free ideas and opinions concerning the problems of the profession, the issues of freedom and the problems of the nation. This is natural, because we are a union of the pen and not a grocery store.

The right to criticize has been granted to everything and every member of the council and the head of the Journalists' Union. Nothing is sacred, except for the dignity of the nation and the interests of the journalists and their issues.

It must be known to all that the union belongs to all the journalists who belong to it, the people who won in these elections and the people who did not, the people who supported the former and the people who supported the latter. It is a union of all the union journalists.

It must also become known, so that we may not err in our calculations, that the candidate for the position of head of the union (for that is not a job with a classification) who obtained 473 votes, Mr Kamil Zuhayri, did not lose the elections, because a difference of three votes is not an expression of success or failure. He has just been kept from the position of union head for a period of time. He represents half the general assembly minus three and, although that is a minority, its opinion and evaluation of union affairs must be respected, so that the love which the union chief, Salah Jalal, who won by a majority of three votes, called for may prevail and so that that love and affection may truly prevail, disputes may stop and everyone may proceed to serve the profession, the union, the members of the union and the nation in all respects.

The unity, solidarity and unification of the journalists' ranks and their advancement, together with a constructive spirit toward public service, is contingent on the future conduct of the council and the union chief, and not just on their words, and this is what we wish for.

The failure to present any discussion at the general assembly is a severe violation of the Journalists' Law and the traditions of the union and the profession; we are giving notice of that, just so that it will not be repeated.

The failure to tolerate the expression of opinions which are contrary to that of the union chief in the assembly is a flagrant violation of the union's law and traditions, and we are giving notice of that, also, just in the hope that it will not be repeated.

I will not say more about the method of voting that was pursued in the general assembly hall except that it was not worthy of a union whose members talk about democracy, and some of whom explain it to people and to the public.

Threats about time and the bypassing of procedures are election techniques and not union procedure, and we must refrain in the future and avoid them.

The failure to discuss the budget and the union statement is a dangerous thing which could deprive these documents of their legitimacy, even if they did win applause from ~~some~~ people, as proof of support for the union head. Head of the Journalists Union: let us all realize that people pass away and positions are temporary, but the profession and the union will remain, and the nation remains for everyone. We do not want history some day to judge us as having been deficient and negligent, as having erred with respect to ourselves, our freedom, our union and our colleagues. Let us make God and the public interest the object of our devotion.

In conclusion, I request that the new council bring together all the good opinions, recommendations and studies that have been presented to the general assembly but have not been discussed or been given decisions because of the delay in the convening of the general assembly, and I request that they be studied and that the appropriate decisions be taken on them and that notice be conveyed to the members of the general assembly on the matters that were taken in regard to them as soon as possible, so that these important recommendations and studies will not be lost in the pressure of the "preoccupations of the council," of which we are aware.

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CSO: 4504/254

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DEBATES ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING IN BOEING DEAL

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Mar 83 p 6

[Article by Mahmud Mu'awwad and 'Abd al-Jawwad 'Ali: "People's Assembly Debates Suspicion of Corruption in Boeing Airplanes Deal; Government Must Adhere to Unimpeachable, Virtuous Conduct To Preserve People's Wealth"]

[Text] Lines of communication with Egyptian emigres must be strengthened so that their ties with the mother country can be maintained. Minister of tourism says, "Investigations affirm the innocence of all Egyptians who were suspected of accepting a bribe in this deal."

A meeting of the People's Assembly, chaired by Dr Sufi Abu Talib was held yesterday to debate a request for information and questions about allegations that kickbacks were paid to Egyptians in return for their efforts to facilitate the sale of Boeing airplanes in Egypt. The assembly also discussed the government's plan to stimulate travel and to make it accessible to young people. There was also an expanded debate on the [government's] emigration policy and its policy on Egyptians living abroad. Assembly members called upon the government and the people to adhere to unimpeachable and virtuous conduct to preserve the people's wealth and strengthen respect for Egypt among the nations. Assembly members asked that lines of communication with Egyptian emigres abroad be strengthened and that they be kept informed of all developments in Egypt so that their ties with the motherland can be maintained. Egyptian emigres are to be encouraged to remit their savings to Egypt to support the country's economic and social development plan. Assembly members asked that legislation be enacted to regulate such communications so that the rights of Egyptians [living] abroad can be safeguarded and their treatment be exemplary in relation to that of their counterparts, emigres from other countries. The minister of tourism declared that the government's policy was based on fighting and exposing corruption wherever it can be found. He said that consideration of the Boeing matter affirms the innocence of every Egyptian who was suspected of accepting a bribe.

The Beginning of the Session

At the beginning of its meeting, which was chaired by Dr Sufi Abu Talib, the assembly debated a request for information submitted to the prime minister regarding the truth about what was published in THE NEW YORK TIMES in July 1978. THE NEW YORK TIMES had published a story alleging that the Boeing Corporation in

the United States had offered two agencies in Egypt the sum of 8.7 million U.S. dollars to facilitate the sale of their products in Egypt. Mumtaz Nassar, an independent assembly member who had submitted the information request said, "This information request has spanned two legislative sessions of the assembly. It was first made in 1978. I was disturbed by what I read in THE NEW YORK TIMES. Therefore, I submitted the request for information in 1978, but it was not placed on the assembly's [agenda]. I submitted my request in 1979 and then in 1980, and it was not placed on the agenda [then either]. Now I am submitting it once again. Our primary concern here is to achieve unimpeachable and virtuous [conduct]. We must not act like ostriches burying our heads in the sand. I am hoping that what was published is neither truthful nor factual. I am hoping that the conduct of the government and the people in Egypt is unimpeachable and virtuous. The published report affirmed that the forementioned company did pay 52 million U.S. dollars in kickbacks to 7 countries and that Egypt was one of the countries. The report stated that officials in Egypt received 8.7 million dollars from the company to facilitate the sale of its products in Egypt. Has the government found out which agency or what officials received that payment? We would like to see officials in Egypt conduct business in an unimpeachable and virtuous manner."

In his reply to the information request Mr Tawfiq 'Abdu Isma'il, minister of tourism and civil aviation declared, "The government emphasizes its utmost concern for the probity and integrity of every Egyptian living in this country, a country that deserves confidence, probity and honesty. It is the policy of the government to fight, expose and wipe out corruption wherever it can be found and its existence confirmed. This is what is happening now in front of public opinion. Notwithstanding some errors in the translation that was read by Mr Mumtaz Nassar, the government studied all aspects of this matter as soon as it learned about it. [The government found out that] the Aviation Organization had concluded two deals with the Boeing Corporation. The first one, which was concluded in 1966, was for the purchase of four Boeing airplanes. No suspicions were raised regarding that contract. The second contract was signed in 1972 for the purchase of 4 additional airplanes. There was an addendum to that contract stipulating the purchase of 2 airplanes in 1973, and this is under investigation by the courts. Hilmi Shams and others are defendants in that case, and it would be pointless to talk about that case today. In 1976 no deals or contracts were made between Egypt and the Boeing Corporation. However, some fraternal countries offered to give Egypt a number of airplanes, and the government gratefully accepted their gift because they were friendly countries. Measures that have been taken [since then] affirm the innocence of every Egyptian. No contract was made to arouse suspicion that someone accepted a bribe."

Stimulating Travel

Assembly members William Najib Sayfayn, Sami Abazah and Muhammad al-Shakhibi asked three questions about the Ministry of Tourism's plan to stimulate travel in Egypt in the country and abroad and to make travel accessible to young people. Minister of tourism Tawfiq 'Abdu Isma'il said, "The Ministry of Tourism has come up with a plan to stimulate travel in Egypt. The main aim of the plan is to highlight Egypt's numerous tourist attractions and to promote tourist services which, thank God, are continually growing and becoming more efficient. Several means are utilized to implement this plan. Tourist offices are among those means; their present annual budget is 400,000 pounds. It is a fact that the state's view of these offices does not enable them to perform their principal duty of providing

the required standard of travel information. These offices are being continuously evaluated so that their standards can be upgraded appropriately.

"Egypt also participates in a large number of international conferences where the Tourism Promotion Organization tries to promote Egypt's image as a tourist attraction. The organization produces numerous information and promotional materials: publications, bulletins and travel films. From time to time the ministry decides to send groups of tourist agency employees to a particular area where they make contacts with public opinion [representatives] and tourist organizations to create a new market. The ministry and its agencies also invite people who are engaged in promoting tourism, such as specialists in tourism promotions or officials of international travel agencies, to visit Egypt. The ministry thus provides those visitors with an opportunity to become acquainted with tourist attractions in Egypt and to meet [the people in] those agencies that serve tourists. The ministry is setting up tourist information offices in Egypt. These offices will serve citizens and visitors who go there; they will find out about the problems that tourists encounter; and they will convey them to authorized agencies for solutions."

The minister added, "The state is devoting special attention to travel for young people. It is making it possible for young people to travel by air and surface transportation. The state is showing an interest in camping, and it is encouraging local and international athletic competitions. I recall that most of the travel requests that were made by young people were for recreational travel in the summer."

William Najib Sayfayn said, "I am asking that attention be devoted to tourism because Egypt has a number of tourist treasures that can turn tourist resources into a principal source of national revenue."

Muhammad Tamam al-Shakhibi said, "Many of our young people don't know much about our civilization and its ancient monuments, and this makes us strangers in our own land. It is the role of the Tourism Promotion Organization to spread awareness about tourism. Where are the travel firms in Egypt?"

In answering a question raised by Habibah Sahlab about the reason why travel firms were not being urged to include Port Said on travel itineraries so that tourists can visit that city, the minister of tourism said, "Contacts have been made with the governor of Port Said to provide a popular tourist attraction in that city. One cannot force a tourist to visit an area where there are no tourist attractions."

Habibah Sahlab said, "The location of Port Said is distinguished by its beautiful natural surroundings which can attract tourists. These advantages are not found in many international ports. Something needs to be done in Port Said to stimulate tourism in that city."

Some members requested a debate on the [government's] emigration policy and its policy on Egyptians abroad. George Rufa'il had this to say about that: "My colleagues and I submitted the request for debate because of the importance of this matter. An accurate survey of emigres must be made. There are conflicting accounts about this matter." The assembly member asked that emigration be regulated and that Egyptians working abroad be encouraged to remit their savings to Egypt.

Husayn Washahi said, "I am asking that more attention be given to Egyptian emigres abroad because they are citizens of Egypt. The role they play in supporting the national economy is not to be belittled."

Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi, an independent assembly member, said, "Many of our emigres abroad are quite prepared to make every effort to serve Egypt and to offer funds to do so. Has the government defined those channels through which those citizens can work to regulate the contributions they make to support the Egyptian economy? I would imagine that the state would have to set up controls to regulate the emigration of educated people on whom the state had spent millions of pounds. Laws must be amended in a manner that would bring about that objective. Even if we have to amend the constitution, [we should do so] because the public interest is more worthy of being protected than the interest of an individual."

Buthaynah al-Tawil said, "This is an extremely important matter because it concerns millions of our people who emigrated from Egypt. The important question is this: why do our young people emigrate and leave their country? We are not banning emigration, but we must regulate it so that the rights of the country can be protected. The investment the country made in its citizens for its own protection and to meet the shortage of its needs must be safeguarded."

Mumtaz Nassar said, "We want legislation to define Egypt's interests in the area of emigration. This legislation should bring together emigrants and their countrymen; it is to affirm the cultural relationship that exists between emigrants and their fellow countrymen. Such legislation is [to make it possible] to keep emigrants informed about everything that is taking place in their mother country; it is to regulate the exchange [of information] among emigrants regarding their contribution to development in Egypt. They are more deserving of tax exemptions than foreign investment firms are!"

Dr Suhayr al-Qalamawi said, "I am asking that the state devote its utmost attention to Egyptian emigrants who are living abroad. The state is to follow the Korean government's example in order to hold on to its citizens who are living abroad."

Kamal Henry Badir said, "Emigrants are Egyptians with whom we must maintain strong ties. They are Egypt's ambassadors abroad, and they can convey to the outside world a radiant image of Egypt. Besides, they can contribute to [the effort to] strengthen the national economy. We must strengthen communications with them by giving the Ministry of Emigration a strong impetus to carry out this important role in the interests of Egypt."

Fatmah 'Inan said, "Our young emigrants are our ambassadors abroad. We must deal with them on that basis and we must provide them with all the capabilities that tie them to the country."

Hamdi Ahmad of the Labor Party said, "I am against any restrictions on the emigration of Egyptians. Emigrants try to improve the state's economic situation, and they try to support its international position."

Ahmad al-Qayati said, "Workers who travel to work abroad must be protected from some individuals who impose a tax on them. The state must see to it that the

wages of Egyptian workers abroad are equal to the wages of comparable workers from other countries."

Wadi' Dawud said, "Many of those who emigrated have excelled in their disciplines and they've earned the respect of the countries where they work. Don't these people deserve our care and protection?"

Imtithal al-Dib asked that attention be devoted to emigrants abroad. She asked that emotional ties between them and Egypt be maintained by organizing travel programs for them so they can be kept abreast of developments in their mother country.

Albert Barsum Salamah, minister of emigration affairs, commented on the assembly members' remarks and said that a conference for Egyptians living abroad would be held in the second half of this year. He said new policies would be made to ensure the rights of workers and establish ties between them and the country. He said that the ministry had drafted a new bill to regulate emigration and that that bill would be presented soon to the People's Assembly.

The assembly then decided to turn the matter over to a special committee on culture and Arab affairs for [further] study. That committee was to submit a report to the assembly about the matter.

The assembly is to resume its meeting this morning.

8592

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NAVAL VESSELS FROM BRITAIN DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Mar 83 p 8

[Article by 'Abd al-Wahid 'Abd al-Qadir: "Britain Strengthens Agreement over Ramadan Vessels; Chinese Submarines, Vessels Arrive and Egyptian Flag Is Flown on Them; Talks on Acquisition of Modern Submarines Underway in Three Western Countries"]

[Text] Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah stated that Britain was presently concentrating on strengthening the agreement to provide Egypt with Ramadan vessels. He said, "We are considering the process of financing these highly efficient vessels." He indicated that there was a tendency to acquire frigates from other countries so as to diversify the sources of naval weapons. He said that talks on the acquisition of modern submarines were now underway with three western countries.

As far as Chinese weapons are concerned, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah announced that the agreement which was reached with China included submarines, destroyers and vessels. Abu Ghazalah said that some of these units had arrived and that the Egyptian flag had been flown on them.

Abu Ghazalah announced that major exercises would be held in the armed forces. He said that Egypt did not oppose joint exercises with modern countries because the armed forces gain considerable benefits from them. He said that he will carry out joint training and exercise action with the Sudanese forces this year as is the case every year.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah had inaugurated the floating exhibition of British equipment and weapons that was held on board the ship, Viking Feathers in Alexandria. He was accompanied by Admiral Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, commander of the naval forces; Engineer Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for production; and senior commanders and officers. He announced that the exhibition included modern and advanced equipment and said that holding such exhibitions in our country was quite beneficial to Egyptian officers and engineers. [He said this was better] than sending them on missions abroad to find out about the most modern technologies.

PROMINENT SOCIOLOGIST OFFERS EVALUATION OF RECENT HISTORIC EVOLUTION

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2856, 7 Mar 83 pp 40-43

[Interview with Sociologist Sa'd al-Din Ibrahim by Muhammad 'Uthman:
"Abd al-Nasir misread the History of the Wafd!"]

[Text] In order to put our hands on the true nature of what is going on in our society, we must observe the course of history and discover the patterns of its growth and forms of behavior.

What, then, happened in Egyptian society during the various stages of its history?

Did it develop in a normal manner or did distortions occur in it, as Dr Sa'd al-Din Ibrahim, professor of sociology in the American University, says?

What is the explanation of the condition that has seized Egyptians, whose symptoms have become manifest in the form of indifference and a lack of concern?

Dr Sa'd al-Din Ibrahim explains though a basic element which he considers to be the cornerstone in understanding all the social, political and economic phenomena that are appearing in our society.

He says,

"The historical development of Egyptian society has been subjected to distortion, as a result of the fact that the normal period of transition that societies pass through from the traditional stage to the modern stage has lasted longer than necessary in Egypt until the 15th century. Most societies existed on a traditional basis, founded on belief in a metaphysical power that determined their destiny and consequently made man's power to transcend specific problems extremely limited.

"In the modern stage, man has become the center of power. He can act, determine and set laws. The shift from the one stage to the other has entailed a transitional stage. We started to enter that with the French invasion, but it has gone on at length, and the period has been more trying and longer than it should have been."

[Question] What are the reasons for this interpretation?

[Answer] The most important reasons are external, but they have always found support in the form of internal factors. The start of the transitional stage began in the latter part of the 18th century, when Europe was bursting forth industrially, politically, economically and organizationally with all the vitality of a demon rushing violently forth.

Unfortunately, a careful calculation was not made of intrinsic resources and the resources of the countervailing forces. We found ourselves part of the stage on which all the emerging industrial forces were competing.

The rulers' inability to read the international variables that prevailed in their time led to the commission of major mistakes. They did not determine the right time to emerge into the outer world, and they did not understand the necessary conditions for doing so, because, in the revolution of modernization, they restricted themselves to certain sectors and ignored the development of the political forces which are the basis of the society's ability to persevere. Consequently, it was easy to strike out at the leader, whether he was Muhammad 'Ali or Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, and frustrate the entire experiment.

The Conditions of Treatment

[Question] Does that mean that the ruler has absolute power to determine the strategy and the tactics of change?

[Answer] The ruler's inability properly to read the nature of the equation of change, or the fact that he was told that this was the equation of change, or the fact that he took part of it in order to consecrate his rule while not taking the remainder, and consequently did not permit new forces in the public or the society to enter the political stage, subjected the foundations of the society to the external factor at that point, and the issue became one of wondering about the conditions on which to enter the international system -- as an equal or as a subject?

What happened with the Muhammad 'Ali experiment is that Egypt did not withdraw into itself after he was struck down -- rather, it remained a part of the international system. However, rather than becoming a new entrant in the international club, from 1820 to 1840, insisting the conditions of equal membership, Egypt became a subordinate member of this club after 1841.

We find that the Khedive Isma'il was prepared to increase his assimilation into the international club, without, however, insisting on conditions of equality in the manner in which he was treated.

Egypt was not closed off in the days of 'Abd al-Nasir and it was not open in the days of al-Sadat. Its contact with the outer world remained as it had been and therefore we find that the change that has occurred in the West's favor in the volume of trade between us and the Eastern bloc was not a radical one; rather, the basic issue is that the conditions of treatment and of entering the international stage are what have changed.

[Question] We would like to put the results of the long, trying transitional stage inside our society into concrete terms.

[Answer] Let us take something over which there is no dispute, the traditional and modern structures of the population. In the former stage, there is a sort of stability in the size of the population owing to the equilibrium between the high birth and death rates.

In the modern stage, we see that equilibrium in the population occurs when both rates drop, because of the development in man's power to command and control. However, we have been confined to the transitional stage, and a population flood has occurred because we control only one side of the equation!

[Question] How has this disruption manifested itself in the economy?

[Answer] Traditionally, we have had an economy of self-sufficiency. However, modern economies are founded on specialization and increased production, allowing a great deal of interchange.

We, however, have abandoned the stage of self-sufficiency and have not reached the stage of abundant production through specialization and economic diversification.

[Question] How about politically?

[Answer] The same. In traditional societies, a strong dictatorial authority prevails which imposes obedience on subjects in exchange for a minimum of social peace and protection from all foreign threats. Modern structures strike a balance between rights and duties and an interchange between ruler and ruled.

We, however, still demand what our grandfathers were demanding in the years 1879, 1881 and 1883, because we have been confined to the traditional stage.

In spite of all the frustrations that have brought grief to Egyptians in the last 200 years, as a result of their attempt to emerge from backwardness, they still constantly strive to achieve some success, then they retrench and suffer a shock, domestically or abroad; then they try to get up once again. There has not been a generation from 1880 to the present that has not made this attempt.

A Society Opposed to Collapse!

[Question] Some thinkers record the view that the old system of values has collapsed but has not left behind a new value system. Is this one aspect of the crisis?

[Answer] Nothing is collapsing in Egypt, because it, as a riverine society, is accustomed to storing things; while non-riverine societies cast off the old values during their successive stages of historical development, and new values that are in keeping with social development appear, we have received value systems that are linked to various modes of production, but we do not cast off their patterns in order to replace them with other ones. Rather, we store them up. Therefore, we find that all the means of transport that were known to us from the days of the pharaohs exist and are used on the Egyptian streets.

[Question] Does that mean that there is a chaos in values here?

[Answer] We have value systems that are like geological strata. The Pharaonic system of values is linked to the riverine nature of Egypt and is embodied in the ruling authorities, agriculture, the seasons of the year, cooperation on a limited scale to cope with dangers from the river or to participate in agricultural activity, and respect for the central authorities. All these values, standards and practices still exist in one form or another to this day.

On top of this system there is what we have received through contact with Hellenistic or Mediterranean civilization. We have received the values of commerce and the values of the pursuit of occupations because the Greeks appeared among us, being used at the outset as slaves by the Pharaohs. Then came the idea of selling the skills and abilities of others. This was reflected in ancient Egyptian art and, through enforcement and repetition, became transformed into a dynamic mode. We then started to be aware of it when Christianity came to Egypt and imparted another system of values.

After that there was Islam, then the era of the Circassian Mamelukes. When we came to the 19th century we adopted a European system of values. Then came the stages of change and the Egyptian Arab awakening, which tried to create a blend between authenticity and modernity, and provided a new value system.

A time comes when each system that existed in an earlier period of history moves because of a specific form of pressure or interaction, or, in other cases, in which a ruler or a social movement can perform the process of recalling a specific value system that will enable him to be sovereign.

[Question] How do these processes occur in Egyptian society?

[Answer] The Egyptians who were defeated in Sinai in 1967 were the same Egyptians who fought a great war 6 years later. On the former occasion they were dominated by the value system of servility and wretchedness, that of "not caring" and "not getting involved in things they don't have any business with." Then the other system, which was also deep-rooted in Egyptian society, got in movement, and out came the values of courage and sacrifice. These values have always been present, in the defense of the land and one's honor.

The Chaos of Values!

[Question] There is a point that merits substantial explanation, doctor. Does the ruler inspire a certain system of values as a result of specific economic and social circumstances, or is it the personal factor that plays the main role in this process?

[Answer] Change in the patterns of production is of necessity followed by the emergence of new values that are added to the corpus of the values in Egyptian society, and they become the most recent layer, the one with which people are the most intimately involved. However, it is not a pure layer, because it is not easy to move a society, change it, impose something on it or mock it. What happens, rather, is that a ruling class or an elite with specific interests

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[Question] Some sociologists consider that our Egyptian society is one of the
human societies that most arouse people's attention. What is the motive for
that?

[Answer] Its diversity, the presence of all these patterns and models, and
the existence of a sort of innate genius, which has made it, in spite of all
the shocks, preserve a great degree of its cohesiveness.

[Question] What is the secret of this cohesiveness?

[Answer] Its tremendous capacity for integration, because of the presence of
a massive reserve that is stored in its collective memory and in the patterns
of behavior that are available to it, has made it able to adjust to the harshest
circumstances of oppression, tyranny, famine and plague. However, this bless-
ing of adaptability has sometimes kept it from discovering new approaches;
rather, it has searched about in the tremendous storehouse it possesses, and
that is without a doubt a curse!

[Question] We would like to get a picture of the mechanism of the reaction to
defeat within this society in the modern era.

[Answer] Three reactions always occur. The first is a reaction which totally
rejects the enemy and all he represents and seeks means in the heritage to get
rid of him.

In the second, there is an emulation of the West, an attachment to it and a
capitulation to it.

Finally, there is the middle alternative, which seeks to take from the West
its means of sustenance, by which to fight it, while at the same time supporting
itself on the terrain of national heritage.

This is the model of all our secular leaders and in my opinion the optimum
system for Egyptian society. It is the only one that can enable it to produce
results in the long range.

[Question] However, democracy totally disappeared from this model which 'Abd-al-Nasir aimed at, which is based on the reconciliation of different forces, and collapsed with an ease that provokes one's anger in the 1967 defeat. How can that be an optimum system?

[Answer] Because 'Abd-al-Nasir misread the history of the Wafd. The Wafd began placating the British and the palace more than was necessary, and, in his mind, this placating process was linked to democracy. I believe that that is the reason why he was not interested in the issue of democracy!

[Question] You said that 'Abd-al-Nasir misread the history of the Wafd. What other readings, correct or incorrect, did 'Abd-al-Nasir make of Egyptian history?

[Answer] Many things, such as his diagnosis of the ailments of Egyptian society, and his reading of our own capabilities and the capabilities of adversaries, especially foreign ones, which led to well known disasters. In his conduct, he acted like a man whose rule was individual in nature, not like a leader of the people, whereas he did not need to do that. That is one aspect of the tragedy. In some things his reading was correct, such as the circles of affiliation, the issue of justice, modernization, development and non-alignment.

[Question] If the theory of the famous British historian Arnold Toynbee regarding challenge and response is applied, what are the basic issues that the Egyptian condition might raise? In what manner have they been responded to in the last 30 years?

[Answer] Six issues have been raised on the national stage, to varying degrees: the problems of national independence, social justice, development, unity, affiliation and authenticity. Since the era of the resurgence, they have assumed different names, but I give them the names we have been using in this period. In the past 30 years, the regime has not offered an answer to them, or it has offered unconvincing answers. With regard to some of them, it has offered convincing answers but has not been able to carry them out.

[Question] How was that?

[Answer] We have not been able to offer a real solution to the political question on how to get people to participate in the regime.

With regard to development, an answer has been provided, but when it began to be carried out it was stopped and faced difficult times, owing to foreign factors.

Regarding the issue of unity, I believe that the regime has offered an answer to that but it has not been converted into practical application.

Regarding the issue of maintaining a balance between authenticity and modernity, it has not been able to provide an answer.

In the stage of the seventies, there was a regression from some of the proper answers, and there was a disruption in the circles of affiliation. Social justice was almost wiped out and we no longer heard of it.

Thus society faced a cultural dilemma in the late sixties and all during the seventies.

The extremist societies were an expression of this dilemma, because they were the natural, not the physical, heirs of the nationalist masses of the fifties and sixties, indeed the British occupation.

The same classes, the middle classes, that were moved to act by Egyptian nationalism before 1952 were the ones that were moved by Arab nationalism and socialism in the fifties and sixties, and the classes that were moved by these societies and from whom these societies draw their members.

[Question] Is there any way out of this cultural dilemma?

[Answer] The banner must fly over the mainstream of Egyptian society, because a countervailing current appeared when its progress was blocked. The Egyptian political powers must try to create laws or a gradualist Moslem formula to ensure that the society proceeds toward the true solution of the six problems and not just to give a false impression.

Class Vacuum!

[Question] As a result of the extreme changes that have occurred in recent years, Egyptian society has started to suffer from a unique phenomenon, which is represented by the absence of a social class that can lead it, and therefore we are now complaining of a class vacuum!

[Answer] The class that is providing the leadership is one feature of the crisis that exists, which has a thousand features. That is because the class that led the society in the seventies was not the most important or most productive and self-sacrificing of the social classes. The main classes, the working class of 7 million people (and we have started to have a real working class), a real middle class, and a real productive capitalist class, which is small in size, were put on the sidelines; in spite of it all that, they were all put on the sidelines politically, and their place in running the affairs of the society and taking the major decisions was taken by a parasitical class that has no real roots or social function.

The real remedy is for the parasitic class to be put on the sidelines and for the classes with real social power be given an opportunity to play their political part, in which the competition among them will have the effect of restoring the political balance to its natural state.

[Question] However, the statement has been made which accuses the Egyptian middle class of failing to perform the role that has been imposed on it historically, which is embodied in the consummation of the stage of national independence and the implantation of the foundations and bases of democracy.

[Answer] That statement is not correct, and the proof is that this class strove to achieve democracy but was given a violent blow in every generation, whether by internal or external forces. It was the British who suspended the constitution and the parliamentary consultative council. The representatives of the middle class had been tightening the noose around the khedive and forcing him to offer a new concession every day, until the democratic process was suspended with the British occupation.

The 1919 revolution demanded independence and a constitution, and the Wafd continued to be in opposition because the 1922 constitution did not offer the liberation and the exemplary form that the Wafd wanted. Even the intellectuals and university professors who were hovering about Muhammad Najib did so because he had raised the slogan of democracy.

However, moments occurred when there was competition among various demands, and priority was given to social justice or Arab unity over democracy.

What happened in the sixties was that most intellectuals deferred the issue of democracy on grounds that real social change and a process of modernization were taking place.

After 1954, the issue was presented in the wrong manner, in a manner that made a false comparison between democracy and political parties, or between social justice and the continuation of the revolution. It seems that the leaders of the new regime believed that the restoration of democracy and parties would corrupt the social change they wanted.

There is no doubt that part of the responsibility lies on the shoulders of the people who demanded democracy at that time, because they did not embrace the slogans of social justice in a strong manner, to avoid a separation between justice and democracy.

What is needed today is to go back to this blend between social justice among the classes of the society and the attainment of real democracy.

[Question] Does that mean reformulating the social contract?

[Answer] We need a new social contract between the middle class and the working class, because those two are the basis of the exercise of democracy and social justice, and this alliance can restore equilibrium to Egyptian society.

11887

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GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF PRICE INCREASES ATTACKED

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Mar 83 p 8

[Article by 'Abd al-Qadir Shahib: "Poor People and the Predicament of High Prices: High-Quality Goods Are New Style for Raising Prices; Secrets of the Government's Plan To Raise Prices One Step at a Time"]

[Text] No thanks to our government and because of its efforts, there is no longer a place in Egypt for the ordinary poor citizen.

From now on every citizen who wants to live in his country without hardship and who wants to be able to obtain the goods he needs will have to become a tourist! The government has decided that essential goods will become luxury goods and will be sold at high prices. Even a loaf of bread, the most important commodity to a poor, ordinary citizen has been affected by the wave of prices for high-quality goods. According to a recent ministerial decree the loaf of bread too has become a luxury commodity.

This novel, creative way of raising prices is not altogether new. Governments in the administration of the former president had tried it on a narrow scale. The experiment began with a decree that was issued several years ago by a former minister of supply. Rice was to become a luxury commodity under the pretext that large hotels and restaurants were using subsidized, low-priced rice and serving it cooked to tourists at very high prices. As was stated in official statements, the decree guaranteed that subsidized non-premium quality rice would be available to citizens in abundant quantities. However, as time went by subsidized rice disappeared from the markets, and only high-quality rice became available. This way the price of rice was raised gradually and not at once.

The same thing was repeated with bus fares when the Public Transportation Authority began operating one class bus lines "for tourists" and then charging fares that were 5 times and then 10 times the fare for an ordinary bus.

The Method of Raising Prices for Tourists

Therefore, when the government of Dr Mustafa Khalil wanted to raise the price of a loaf of bread, it resorted to this method of raising prices "for tourists," and it issued a decree dividing citizens into two groups: an elite group that would buy a high-quality loaf of bread for 10 milliemes and another group--not an elite

group--that would buy an ordinary loaf of bread for 5 milliemes. After a few months, on the basis of the government's policy of improving [standards] for all citizens, the ordinary loaf of bread disappeared, and the only bread that could be found was the high-quality bread. And that gradually became worse than the ordinary loaf of bread [used to be].

Officials in the administration of former president, Anwar al-Sadat resorted to that method of raising prices to avoid any protests or mass uprisings such as those which occurred in January 1977.

Although al-Sadat is no longer on the scene, the government that succeeded him is still pursuing the same course: it is playing tricks on citizens to raise prices and it is carrying out this method of "raising prices for tourists." What is new in this matter is that this government has decided to apply this step on a large scale so as to make it include most if not all the goods that are in circulation in the Egyptian marketplace, even those which it calls essential goods.

Official Directive To Raise Prices

Some months ago Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhi al-Din announced that raising prices now was not possible because of current social conditions. He said that the administration had to find a solution to this problem by producing new varieties of the same commodities with better specifications. [These would be sold] at higher prices.

Only a few days after this directive [was issued], former minister of industry, Engineer Fu'ad Abu Zaghlal announced that public sector companies had produced new varieties of a number of commodities such as cigarettes, industrial cleaners, toilet soap and vegetable shortening. He said these new varieties would be sold at high prices. A few weeks later these commodities were actually on the market, and a promise was made that public sector companies would limit production of these "good" varieties to 10 percent of their output; ordinary varieties would constitute 90 percent of their output. Later, the government raised this ratio to 20 percent, and before too long it will be 100 percent, just as we have been accustomed to. Then the new "good" varieties will [eventually] become poor and ordinary varieties.

A New Law

Before people had recovered from this business about "good" varieties and "poor" varieties, the former minister of supply took us by surprise with a decree that made the loaf of bread a luxury commodity. His decree included designating a number of bakeries in Cairo and al-Jizah to produce this "finu" high-quality loaf of bread which would be consumed in large hotels and restaurants where it would be used in preparing sandwiches for foreign tourists.

No sooner was this decree issued than owners of bakeries asked that the idea of producing high-quality bread be applied to all bakeries across the board. A number of bakery owners did in fact carry out this idea, and they raised prices in their bakeries. The former minister of supply admitted that in an interview with AL-AKHBAR on March 2 this year.

The Wave of Rising Prices

This high-quality loaf of bread merely served notice about the new sweeping wave of high prices and price increases that was coming. All prices [would be affected]: prices of non-essential as well as essential goods. It did not matter that this wave was unannounced or that it hid under different names such as producing high-quality commodities; producing new varieties of commodities; dividing citizens into two groups: one carrying green ration cards and another carrying red ration cards; or setting the right course for subsidies and consumption.

This wave actually began with an unannounced increase in the prices of numerous essential commodities, such as ordinary laundry soap, cotton used in upholstery, subsidized fish, some varieties of cheese, canned foods, medicines, varieties of fabrics and passenger fares between the governorates. Besides, meat prices and prices for vegetables and poultry continue to rise at high rates.

However, these increases that have actually taken place are only the preliminaries of an impending and a sweeping fierce wave of high prices.

So that we may not be accused of making charges without having evidence, let us submit not just one but the body of evidence we have!

Deficit financing, a well-known and common measure the government always resorts to, is not one of the reasons thought to be behind high prices and inflation. In deficit financing government either prints new currency or borrows money from banks. Money in circulation thus exceeds considerably the goods that are produced and those that are imported for sale in that market. This means that demand exceeds supply, and that causes prices to rise automatically.

This is not a new reason, and its effect is still being felt. Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of the economy has recently admitted to that fact in the People's Assembly. He admitted that in his reply to Fikri Makram 'Ibayd's request for information about the reduction of remittances sent by Egyptians [living] abroad. He said that although the government was able to reduce the rate of increase in the currency in circulation from 43 percent to 12 percent, this rate still exceeds the rate of growth in the GNP. It is this that is causing inflation and high prices to continue.

New Reasons

In addition to that reason, there are other new reasons, and all of them indicate that the coming wave of high prices will be severe.

These reasons stem from the new financial and economic policies that the government is considering and is preparing to execute, particularly in the aftermath of the expected decline in foreign currency sources due to the reduction in export oil prices. It is estimated that the reduction in export oil prices this year will be about 240 million pounds and 500 million pounds in the next fiscal year.

The government is now considering reducing budget allocations for subsidies earmarked for people on fixed incomes. A report of the Ministry of Planning on following up implementation of the plan in the first half of the present fiscal

year warns against increasing the subsidy figure that was approved in the budget. The study about regulating consumption, which was submitted to President Mubarak by eight ministers, also asks that subsidy be set on the right course. Discussions that took place among ministers of the economy included a proposal to establish a fund for balancing prices so that the decline in export oil prices can be faced. This is an old proposal that was made in 1976 when thoughts about abolishing subsidies began.

We are to expect a rise in the prices of subsidized goods after that subsidy is abolished or reduced. This is what we have been concerned about ever since the subsidy reduction game began when the subsidy for sesame halva [Translator's note: a sweet made of sesame-seed meal] was abolished.

The government is also reconsidering prices for petroleum products under the pretext of setting the right course for consumption of these products. In recent weeks Engineer 'Izz al-Din Hilal, deputy prime minister and minister of petroleum has made repeated statements about the fact that the rate of increase in oil consumption this year has caught up with the major increase in production, which amounted to 11 percent. The minister of petroleum called for increasing local prices for oil so that the right course for local consumption may be set, particularly since local oil prices are much lower than world prices.

The government is also considering reducing the price of the Egyptian pound so it can do away with foreign currency brokers and merchants. This study is based on studies that were made by the Economic Committee of the ruling National Party. That committee is headed by Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of the economy. These are the studies that proposed establishment of a commercial market in which the price of a pound would be determined by supply and demand. Reducing the price of the pound would increase the prices of all imported goods and all locally produced goods whose production requirements are imported from abroad. This is what happened every time the price of the Egyptian pound was reduced in relation with other foreign currencies.

Finally, the government intends to submit a new public sector bill that would include raising the prices of products produced by public sector companies to counter the losses of some of them and increase profits for the rest.

The Step by Step Policy

For all these reasons we expect prices to rise drastically in the next few months. The rate of price increases will be higher than the rate of increases that was realized this year. Last year the rate of price increases was not less than 40 percent.

But the government is now carrying out these policies gradually or one step at a time. It begins by reconsidering the prices of public sector products, one commodity at a time. Now every day we have a surprise, unannounced increase in the prices of these commodities. Then it will be the turn of what the government calls setting the right course for subsidies by implementing the plan for new ration cards and standardizing the prices of commodities sold through ration cards. After that the right course would be set for oil consumption by raising oil prices. Finally, the price of the Egyptian pound would be reduced after the

new banking law is issued. This new law stresses supervision by the Central Bank over the banking sector. Then the government would succeed in reducing the amount of currency in circulation, and it would [accordingly] reduce the deficit in the balance of payments, as Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id promised in the People's Assembly.

For all these reasons we have to learn to forget the current prices we use now in doing business, and we have to get ourselves ready for "tourist prices." We have to stop being citizens and become tourists in our own country! Otherwise, we will not be able to live in it!

8592

CSO: 4504/276

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR RECEIVES LARGE ALLOCATION

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN MAIL in English 26 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] The Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, Mr. Fuad Abu Zaghla, yesterday announced that L.E. 85 million has recently been set aside to overcome the financial problems facing the various industrial companies, and that the total funds allocated for this purpose during the current fiscal year come to L.E. 120 million.

Studies are now being conducted to overcome other problems hampering the development of industrial production, especially power failures, said Mr. Abu Zaghla. He added that an agreement will be signed soon with the Ministry of Energy to this effect.

In the field of mineral resources the minister said that mineral prospecting activities have resulted in the discovery of a number of important minerals including thorium, copper, cobalt, iron, phosphate, dolomite, white shale, calcium carbonate, quartz and sodium chloride and that the Ministry of Industry has worked out plans for using these minerals.

Mr. Abu Zaghla also stated that about 230 million tons of iron ore have been discovered in the Western Desert. This would be enough to cover the needs of the iron and steel complex in Helwan for more than 30 years. He added that the total output of the complex comes to 1,750,000 tons of iron a year, produced from 3.5 million tons of iron ore.

A project to exploit the phosphate discovered at Abu Tartour, in the New Valley Governorate, has been included in the five-year plan, said the minister. The project is expected to produce seven million tons of concentrated phosphate of which six million tons will be exported to Arab and foreign countries, he added.

The other one million tons of concentrated phosphate, said the Minister, will be used locally to produce phosphoric acid which is transformed into triple super phosphate fertilizer needed for land reclamation projects. MSS

CSO: 4500/129

MINISTERS CONSIDER INVESTMENT NEEDS FOR NEW PLAN

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 27 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] The general framework for the new budget and the development plan for 1983-1984 will be the main topics dealt with by the Higher Committee for Policies and Economic Affairs in its meeting next Tuesday.

The Ministers of Finance, Planning, Economic and Investment are currently conducting a comprehensive study on subsidies, wages, prices and income. It is expected that the investments of the plan in the second year will amount to LE 5,500 million with a view to increasing rural and industrial production. The plan also aims at providing 400,000 working opportunities.

The development plan also concentrates on solving the housing problem by enhancing the construction of low-priced flats, and repairing dilapidated utilities. Studies are currently being conducted to face the decrease of international oil prices and its impact on Egypt since its an oil exporting country, said an official source at the Ministry of Petroleum. [as published]

Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance Dr Salah Hamed held a meeting with the directors of various sectors to discuss the budget and means of increasing the country's national income. A sum of over LE 2100 million will be allocated for wages next year including allocations for the settlement law, which is to be discussed by the people's Assembly next month allowances and incentives to encourage production.--GSS

CSC: 4500/129

GOVERNMENT RATIFIES NEW INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 2 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] Eighteen investment projects with a total capital of L.E. 83.6 million have been approved this week by the Board of Directors of the Investment Authority, chaired by the Minister of Investment and International Cooperation, Dr. Wagih Shendi, said an official source at the authority.

Nineteen investment projects have been approved by the authority during the last four months covering the fields of agriculture, industry and services. [as published]

In the field of industry, the authority has approved eight projects with a total capital of L.E. 23 million, including L.E. 13 million in foreign currency. The total cost of these projects will come to L.E. 48 million including L.E. 27 million in foreign currency, said the source.

The approved industrial projects include factories for the production of ready-made clothes, textiles, detergents and building materials. The projects will provide jobs for 1,600 workers with total wages of L.E. 3.5 million yearly.

The authority has also approved three agricultural projects with a total capital of L.E. 9.9 million of which L.E. 3.8 million will be provided in foreign currency. These three projects will provide jobs for 1,527 workers with total wages reaching L.E. two million, the source said.

As regards the building materials projects, the authority has approved two projects with a capital of L.E. eight million costing altogether L.E. 16.5 million.

Meanwhile, Dr. Shendi said that the authority's approval of any investment project would be cancelled after six months if the investor failed to begin implementing his project.

The minister also said that the Investment Authority will give priority to projects which help increase Egyptian exports and minimise the imports of certain goods.--GSS

CSO: 4500/129

BRIEFS

SINAI MANGANESE MINES--The mountainous area of Om Bagma, a spot well known for its manganese mines is still waiting for its mines to be reopened and this contribute to the country's economy. [as published] The mines which were dug in 1913 fell twice into the hands of the Isrealis, once in 1956 and again in 1967. Although the area of Om Bagma was restored to Egyptian sovereignty in 1975 the mines are still closed. Work was supposed to start in 1977 but the officials are still awaiting the results of feasibility studies currently being conducted by a number of foreign consultancy firms. The management of the company operating the mines should have conducted an inventory of the equipment available at the mines, a geologist, complaining about the long delay, said to a reporter from ROSE EL-YOUSSEF weekly magazine.--GSS. [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 2 Mar 83 p 2]

THERMAL POWER PLANTS PLANNED--Technical and Feasibility studies are now under way to design three giant thermal plants for the generation of electric power at Uyun Mousa and Kuraymat, Upper Egypt, and Sidi Krir, suburban Alexandria, the Minister of Power and Energy, Maher Abaza, said yesterday. Paying a field visit to installation works for the gaseous power generating plant at Abu Kir, Alexandria, Minister Abaza said that the European Economic Community and Japan agreed to make financial contributions to construction and installation works for three thermal stations that will cost some US \$2.7 billion. Works for the three plants are scheduled to be launched before the end of this year and their basic units are due to go operational sometime in 1987 the Minister of Power said. These plants will be heavily relied upon until 1990 when the first nuclear station for the generation of electric power goes operational.--GSS [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 27 Feb 83 p 1]

CSO: 4500/129

LIBYAN PAPER'S CRITICISM OF LIBYANS NOTED

PM050915 London AL-ZAHAF AL-AKHDAR in English 18 Mar 83 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed article: "The Libyans and Their Decisions"]

[Text] It was believed after the basic People's Congresses endorsed the mobilisation programme adopted by the revolutionary committees at their fifth meeting last year, that this would spur the Libyan people towards a major reduction in consumption, allowing increased spending on the arms needed to defend the Arab nation.

It was further believed that the challenge of this mobilisation programme would lead thousands of Libyan men and women to take up employment in various productive fields. It was also anticipated that some people would even leave school or university for a short while to work as volunteers unloading goods at the ports, maintaining roads, taking part in the re-afforestation programme, cleaning the streets, etc.

The hope was that the Libyans would be fired by this challenge to rise up and break the U.S.-directed economic siege which has been imposed upon them, as well as turning the tide against backwardness and escalating the struggle against Zionism.

But what has actually happened? Instead of carrying their pickaxes and driving their tractors in the service of the collective good, Libyans have in fact increased their rate of consumption of all manner of material goods. This is an indication that all the provocations and acts of harassment and imperialist intrigue have had no effect on them at all. The Libyans have continued to display an insatiable greed for all kinds of consumer goods, from clothes to furniture to electronic equipment, hoarding them in great quantities. This is despite the fact that enough consumer goods have been imported into the country to meet our needs for many years to come.

Welcome To the Goods

So, welcome to the consumer goods, the imported food, the European cigarettes which are pouring into the Jamahiriyyah by air and sea. Welcome also to the canned food imported from the West, which looks more like cat food than anything else. This is what the Libyans have been waiting for, as they stand

queues competing to get the largest share of what is flooding into the country.

With these goods, some have started up a black market which competes against the people's markets and sells goods on the pavements in defiance of the municipal guard. Should we then now congratulate those seen carrying a bag of semolina or a case of tinned milk to their cars, instead of having a kalashnikov slung over their shoulder while working in one of this country's citadels of production?

How can these people tolerate a world in which their nation stands humiliated? Why do they refuse to take the risk of martyrdom in defence of their nation?

Six years after the declaration of the people's authority and the creation of the Jamahiriyah and six months after the fifth meeting of the revolution committees, the Libyan Arabs continue to consume goods in a disorganised and unprogrammed way and in unimaginable quantities. They have almost depleted the herds of cattle and sheep and even capitalist exporters have been surprised by the sheer amount of goods they are able to sell us. They have furthermore learned that their belief that the Libyans were re-exporting imports from Europe was incorrect.

Tens of thousands of head of cattle and sheep continue to be imported from every continent. Some arrive alive and others are carcasses to be consumed at feasts and picnics. Those who consume in this manner are hypocrites even unto themselves, because while we hear them chant slogans saying that they have decided to 'live on bread and water alone,' they continue to import food and consumer goods costing hundreds of millions of dinars every years, which all has to be paid for in hard currency.

There seems to be no end to the purchasing missions of economic committees and the delegates of people's markets to Europe to secure yet more important [?goods] from countries which are hostile to the Arabs and which support our Zionist and reactionary enemies. The Libyans have deserted their places of work, they have disdained voluntary labour in services necessary to the community and they have thereby contributed towards making a success of the U.S. imperialist plan to lay a siege against the Libyan people. Their own actions thus rebound against themselves.

Incomplete Freedom

Each non-productive citizen who over-consumes cannot be thought of as free or as deserving of freedom. Such citizens are unreliable when it comes to defending the land and are of no use to anyone because they do not believe in the country's great principles and values. The Libyans must therefore realise that their freedom is for the moment incomplete and will remain so as long as scores of foreign ships continue to anchor in Libyan ports to unload all kinds of unnecessary European imports.

The Libyans risk everything by not playing the role expected of them in the field of production. For what is the purpose of possessing cars and all kinds of luxuries while the Arab race faces the threat of extinction? What kind of appetite is it which allows people to gorge themselves on canned food while our own Arab brethren in Palestine are threatened with starvation and genocide?

People who boast of how many lambs they kill at a feast or family occasion and forget about everyone else may one day find themselves placed in exactly the same position as those who were massacred at Sabra and Shatila. Haven't the Libyans yet learned that lesson? Have they taken the practical steps required to produce the maximum quantity of food while consuming the minimum, allowing the acquisition of modern weapons, or do they believe they have been taking decisions for the Martians?!

The Libyans must learn self-reliance; they must learn to consume the produce of their own country and to face the challenges of their enemies with a firm will, so that when they are threatened with starvation, they will be strong enough to resist any blackmail.

The Libyans need to escalate their attack against colonialism and reaction and to continue to build a free and happy society in which injustice, trade for profit and rent are things of the bourgeois past. They must resist the efforts of bourgeois and reactionary forces concealed within the ranks of the revolution to halt revolutionary progress.

The leaders of the revolution have continually incited everyone to step up their productive efforts in the service of society and the revolutionary committees have formulated a programme of mobilisation intended to save this nation from its enemies. The revolutionary committees represent the force which is committed to oppose reaction, Zionism and imperialism and to inciting the people to strengthen their Jamahiriayah. It is now up to the people to learn the lessons of the past and apply them to the present.

CSO: 4500/166

DLIMI'S DEATH, POLITICAL SITUATION IN COUNTRY DISCUSSED

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English No 4, 16 Feb 83 pp 1-3

[Text]

The Moroccan authorities have become extremely touchy about press criticism, real or implied, indicating that all is not well with their body politic. A series of attacks in local newspapers on foreign correspondents has culminated in the expulsion of *Le Monde's* **Roland Delcour**, the first expulsion of a journalist for a number of years. Delcour's 'crime', for which he was kept in custody without sleep for 48 hours, was to have cast doubts on the official version of the death at the end of last month of Gen. **Ahmed Dlimi**, aged 51, King **Hassan's** closest military and security adviser.

The influential commander of the *Forces Armées Royales* (FAR) was killed within 200 yards of his well-guarded villa in the heart of a secluded Marrakesh palm grove, on his way back from a tête-à-tête with Hassan. The lorry which smashed into his vehicle had been stolen some days before the incident and the driver, in spite of the number of police in the immediate area, was not found. The general's body was not handed over to the family until two days later and his son's passport has been since seized.

The general was such an important and rather mysterious personality, with a background of battle-field derring-do, and the palace communiqué announcing his death was so curt, that the Moroccan rumour mill immediately started churning out fanciful versions of the facts and very soon hardly anyone seemed to believe that Dlimi could have died, like lesser mortals, in a banal road accident.

Dlimi was the second-most powerful man in the kingdom after Hassan. He accumulated four key posts: director of royal aides de camp, director of the secret service, *Direction Générale des Etudes et Documentation* (DGED), director of the *Surêté Nationale* and commander of 80,000 troops in the southern zone, encompassing the Western Sahara. He also handled many delicate diplomatic missions for the king.

In three ways he had an alternative power base to the throne: Dlimi's austere Berber mentality was a far cry from the habits of the royal family and its coterie. He was much admired in the armed forces, having succeeded in stalemating Polisario forces through the so-called strategic triangle fortress. Finally, he maintained excellent relations with President **François Mitterrand's** administration, while the Cherifian sovereign had been pulling closer to the **Reagan** administration in Washington.

It was no secret in the Moroccan capital that Dlimi, along with a host of other senior officers, was dissatisfied with the Saharan war and saw no means of achieving a military outcome. He was credited with turning the tide on the Polisario guerrillas after six years of inconclusive desert warfare by building a line of defences to protect the Western Sahara's towns and phosphate mines. In 1982, Polisario attacks diminished markedly in frequency and intensity and none of them managed to penetrate the defence line.

Dlimi was also responsible for the king's personal security and followed him around like a shadow, carrying an attaché case containing a sub-machine gun and hand grenades. He was present when **Halib Mohamed Roudani** waved a gun a few yards from the king as the monarch was arriving to open parliament in Rabat on 8 October, last year. Roudani was overpowered and police found seven more guns with ammunition in the trunk of his BMW car parked nearby. A military tribunal later found him of unsound mind and he was acquitted. A former resistance movement militant, he was said to be deranged because his rights as a veteran had never been recognized officially and he planned to shoot himself in front of Hassan.

Dlimi made news in 1966 when he was deputy director of state security under Gen. **Mohamed Oufkir**, interior minister, who was accused by Gen. **de Gaulle** of master-minding the kidnap and mysterious disappearance of Moroccan socialist opposition leader, **Mehdi Ben Barka**, who was abducted in front of a left bank café in Paris on 29 October, 1965. Dlimi was accused of complicity in the kidnapping, which was a *cause célèbre* in France involving gangsters, spies and police officers. He became a hero by giving himself up to French justice "to cleanse Morocco's honour" but after eight months in jail he was acquitted by the Seine Assizes for lack of evidence.

From this time onwards, he became more and more powerful, particularly after Gen. Oufkir was shot after being accused of leading an abortive air force coup against Hassan in 1972, when rebel jet pilots tried to shoot down the royal *Boeing* airliner.

With this background, it was almost inevitable that the official version of his death in a road accident should arouse suspicions. Rumours said he was liquidated when a new military plot was discovered, either because he had a part in the plot or because the plotters wanted to get rid of him. There was much talk of high-ranking officers being arrested, for corruption, according to certain sources or for planning a military coup, according to others. When these rumours appeared in print in *Le Monde*, the authorities reacted by expelling the correspondent, but they did not at any time issue an official denial or any further details of the circumstances of Dlimi's death.

According to the most reliable information available, the impact of the head-on collision with an unlighted truck was very violent. Dlimi's limousine burst into flames when it was also hit in the rear by another car that had been following behind. While the truck driver disappeared, the chauffeurs of both cars were killed, as well as Dlimi, who was ejected and lay in the road with severe head and abdomen injuries, which probably killed him instantly.

A servant at Dlimi's house close by, reported hearing a loud bang like an explosion. This could have been the petrol tank of the limousine when it was jammed between the truck and the following car. There was also speculation that it could have been hand grenades exploding in the general's famous attaché case, a theory which could also explain his abdominal injuries.

This all supposes it was really an accident, but one element remains disturbing: there was an eyewitness, a Mr Larizi, owner of *TAM* travel agency in Rabat, which specializes in guided tours to the Soviet Union. He was in the second car and escaped with only minor foot injuries which did not prevent him being whisked away to make a pilgrimage to Mecca within 48 hours of the crash. It may well be explained later that his business as a travel agent required his urgent presence in Mecca, but the sudden departure of the only eyewitness has encouraged the rumours.

Le Monde's front page report brought a barrage of vehement attacks against the foreign press in general and Delcour in particular, who was accused of "pathological and pernicious mythomania" by an official commentator. Similar invective and abuse were used last month when news agencies reported student agitation at the universities in Oujda and Rabat. These reports were denied officially and then confirmed by the university authorities and other officials, but the foreign press was castigated for reporting them nonetheless.

According to Ahmed Alaoui, minister of state without portfolio in the coalition government of

Premier **Maati Bouabid**, there is an international conspiracy against Morocco. Every time the king is involved in foreign affairs, as he was when receiving President **François Mitterrand** two days after **Dlimi's** death, then the foreign press gangs up to tarnish Morocco's image.

Alaoui who is very close to **Hassan**, frequently writes editorials on this theme in the pro-government dailies, *Le Matin du Sahara* and *Maroc Soir* and his opinions are said to carry the royal imprimatur.

Foreigners are being blamed for the king's and Morocco's difficulties, which are many. The economy is in bad shape; the trade deficit was an all-time record at 11.4 bn *Dirhams* in 1982, an increase of 19% over 1981; the treasury is at a low ebb and foreign debt servicing in 1983 will be over 33% of exports and remittances. Finance minister, **Abdellatif Jouahri**, told parliament the country faced "a very difficult year". There is no end in sight to the Western Sahara war which has bedevilled Morocco's relations with its two neighbours, **Algeria** and **Mauritania**, despite reports of a *rapprochement* with **Algiers**, effected when King **Fahd** of **Saudi Arabia** conferred with President **Chadli Benjedid** in December. Persistent reports that **Hassan** and **Benjedid** would meet to patch up their eight-year-old dispute have so far come to nothing.

An immediate political problem for the king is presented by legislative elections due to be held this summer (no date has been announced yet), because the traditional parties seem to be in disarray. There is a serious risk of the national consensus breaking up after being carefully constructed around the throne on the Sahara issue. **Hassan** has his own party, the *Rassemblement National des Independants* (RNI), led by his brother-in-law, and former premier, **Ahmed Osman**, whom **Hassan** appointed as leader of the "royal opposition" after **Osman** was dismissed as prime minister. But it seems **Hassan** is dissatisfied with **Osman's** performance and the current premier, **Maati Bouabid**, has been entrusted with the mission of forming another royalist party, said to represent the post-independence generations. This new party has yet to have a name or hold its first national congress.

The new party still in gestation and the RNI are not taken seriously by the older-established parties, especially the old-guard *Istiqlal* party, led by foreign minister, **M'Hamed Boucetta**, and the rural-based party *Mouvement Populaire*, led by co-operation minister, **Mahjoubi Aherdan**, both of which are members of the present coalition. Also in the coalition is the Independent Democrat Party led by labour minister, **Arsalane Al-Jadidi**, which is an offshoot of the RNI and not considered very legitimate by the other two coalition members.

The real opposition, led by Abderrahim Bouabid of the *Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires* (USFP), remains emasculated, its daily newspaper, *Al-Mouharrir*, banned, several of its militants and the top leadership of its trade union, *Confédération Democratique du Travail* (CDT), in jail since the bloody Casablanca riots of June 1981.

Hassan has indicated he is prepared to lift restrictions on the USFP and CDT on condition that they behave themselves and participate in the elections. But the socialists are wary of playing a game which they risk losing if the palace pushes ahead with plans to create new parties which would probably have the undercover support of the administration.

The reaction of the Moroccan socialists has considerable importance for the king because their fate is dear to the hearts of the socialist governments in France, Spain and Algeria, and if he is to strengthen or restore relations with these three, as he seems determined to do, then he has at least to make it look as though the Moroccan socialists enjoy political freedom.

As in most other spheres, Hassan is very sensitive about critics who say Morocco is violating human rights, as in a recent interview with a French radio station in which he got very testy when asked about political prisoners, of whom there are over 100●

CSO: 4500/127

DLIMI SAID TO HAVE SOUGHT MODUS VIVENDI WITH ALGERIA OVER SAHARA

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English No 4, 16 Feb 83 p 3

[Article: "Dlimi's Last Card"]

[Text]

There has been growing dissatisfaction in the armed forces over the use of Morocco by the US in its forward policy both in Africa and the Arab world. Over the past two years, American operatives have infiltrated most of the strategic points in the Moroccan intelligence network and the armed forces.

Since the assassination of Sadat, Washington is not taking any chances, so Americans play a direct role in Hassan's security. This has not been well received in the armed forces, which also resents the blatantly interventionist manner of the flamboyant US ambassador, Joseph Warner Reed.

We understand that Dlimi has been patiently collecting international support. He met in secret last November in Paris, Algeria's foreign affairs minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, to discuss a *modus vivendi* with Algeria over the Saharan imbroglio. Ibrahimi is not known in Algerian ruling circles as a fervent partisan of the Polisario cause. Apart from President Chadli Benjedid, Col. Sliman Hoffman, in charge of liaison between Polisario and the government, was also informed of the outcome of the Dlimi-Ibrahimi meeting.

Certain sectors of the French secret service, la Direction Générale de Sécurité Extérieure (DGSE, formerly SDECE) also knew what was being hatched. Guy Penne, in charge of African affairs, and Hubert Vedrine, head of Arab affairs at the Elysee, in all probability could not have ignored Dlimi's contacts.

Action on Dlimi's part, opening the way to a negotiated settlement would have been a blessing for France's African policy. It would have enabled it to consolidate its influence in

North Africa, teach the Americans a lesson and end the cleavage over the Saharan issue between Paris and such conservative francophone states as Senegal, Ivory Coast, Cameroun and Gabon. Interestingly, France's *Antenne 2* television channel presented a 30-minute portrait of Dlimi, describing him in glowing terms, just two days before his demise.

Ambassador Reed was conveniently ill during the visit to Rabat — two days after Dlimi's death — of François Mitterrand. And consequently, Reed was not present at official functions in honour of the French president.

In the last month there has been a serious shake-up in the high command, which could disrupt Moroccan defences and lower morale in the armed forces. For example, Col. Boumrat, commander of the *Garde Royale's* commando unit, was arrested, as were a dozen senior officers in the Marrakesh region; the colonel commanding the *Gendarmerie Nationale* was also removed.

Dlimi's posts were divided up as follows: Col. Mohammed Cherkaoui, formerly commander of the *Garde Royale*, was named director of the cabinet of the king's aides de camp, Col. Abdelhak Kadiri was appointed director of DGED, Hamid Boukhari, a *caïd* or regional governor, was named head of the *Surveillance Nationale*, and Col. Abdelaziz Bennani was appointed on a temporary basis, commander of the southern front. We hear that more purges are underway in FAR ranks because the palace reckons that Dlimi's network was more extensive than was first thought. ●

CSO: 4500/127

FOREIGN POLICY VIEWED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Feb 83 p 3

[Article by Nuri Najm: "In Light of the Central Report of the Ninth National Conference Iraq's International Relations. Reality and the Demands of the Coming Phase"]

[Text] The central report issued by the party's ninth national conference has been decisive on numerous problems and has clearly answered many difficult questions concerning national action, its future and the methods required to insure overcoming these problems, and for the completion of building a new society based on justice, freedom and equality, despite the complex circumstances stemming from the continued Iranian aggression on our country.

If publication of the central report has been necessitated by the nature of the phase Iraq is living through, its treatment of the problems has not only been real and compatible with the existing circumstances but also necessary for overcoming these problems through specifying programs' priorities which need to be implemented in all fields without interfering with the basic principles controlling the philosophy, the viewpoint and the basic stands of the Party.

The report is clear in its evaluation of the present conditions and international relations. A country threatened by brute military aggression which is aimed at its sovereignty and independence is supposed to depend, in specifying its stands towards others, on 'their' stand regarding this threat, especially when the threat strikes deeply at the vital principles agreed upon by the international community. The report dealt with the present conditions, international relations, and the attitudes of countries, organizations and liberation movements. It sought to be scientific and objective in its approach, avoiding its own subjective views which do not take into consideration the special circumstances of others, and other factors which contribute to shaping the attitudes surrounding international relations.

Even though the attitudes indicated in the central report are not new to the party, the revolution and the state, and if the report stressed these attitudes as firm principles useful in a future course of action towards potential international change, the important issue that can be stated here is the report's adoption of a real and reasonable style in dealing with the prevailing

international conditions and their potential change. In order to be more able to thoroughly understand the contents of the report regarding the field of international relations, it is necessary to expound on the following basic issues:

The stand towards international conflict and the course of independence

Iraq's international stands and the factors which affect them

Iraq's role in the nonaligned movement

Evaluation of the Iraqi experience and the tasks that lie ahead in the coming phase

In addition to the above issues, there remains Iraq's stand towards international conflict and the course of independence.

Conflict between international blocs and the continuation of the phenomenon of polarization are the most prominent issues that characterize the present phase. Although this conflict may seem to be an ideological one, it is however a real conflict. Leaving ideology aside, this conflict stems from a collection of strategic, economic and military interests between the big powers which possess economic and military potentialities and have superiority in the fields of science and technology. It is not our intention here to put all the big powers in one group, especially in the way they deal with Third World nations. However, the nature of the big powers' regimes and the prevailing forces within them always play a part, to a large or a lesser extent, in their pursuit of exploitation and colonization. The heart of the matter is that the big powers use various means, which may vary with changing times, to dominate the greatest possible area of the world. For this reason it is not possible for either of them [the great powers] to establish mutual relations, based on common interests, with the less powerful nations including the developing nations. They continually try to draw a political map for the world according to their short or long-term strategy, relying on their continued use of influence such as the concessions they gained during the second World War, and their emphasis on dividing the world into blocs and turning Third World countries into spheres of influence.

In point of fact, regardless of whether a cold or hot war exists in some areas of the world, which tends to shape the nature of relations between the big powers, or whether detente exists, the effort of the big powers to achieve their goal has not changed during the various phases of their interrelations. They resort to using all kinds of methods and forms to foil the independent policies pursued by some Third World countries or alternatively they use pressure to exhaust the real content out of these policies. To counter this policy, some Third World countries and liberation movements have increased their struggle and forces since they began to recognize the realities and the complexities of the international situation, and have engaged in a struggle to bolster their independent course which is the only way open for them for guaranteeing and maintaining their independence. They have also decided to stay away from useless participation in areas of conflicts since this runs

counter to and does not reflect their real interests. For this reason, international and local organizations have been established by some Third World countries, and the number of countries that pay allegiance to the independent policy is growing. The nonaligned movement with its growing influence on international life is evidence of the right path pursued by the nonaligned nations and shows that nations have decidedly rejected alignment. President Saddam Husayn goes along with this and further points out that "dividing the world into specific spheres of power does not give an alternative choice to the nations of the world except to align themselves to a particular power sphere, regardless of whether this alignment is compatible or incompatible with the nations' national interests."

The central report makes clear references to the truths other countries and nations have drawn from their experiences in this field, and shows how they dealt with international change. The report states "One of the firm realizations confirmed by nations' experiences is that peoples and small nations are adversely affected not only by the existence of detente conditions between the big powers but also by the existence of conflict between them. Therefore, it is not possible to say, in absolute terms, whether this or that condition will be advantageous or disadvantageous for peoples and small nations, including the Arab nation and the countries of the Middle East. The approach of peoples and small nations towards the big powers and towards detente play an important role in deciding the outcome. The struggle for insuring the independence of the Arab nation and the strive to keep it away from international blocs and getting it to hold firm to the real course of nonalignment is not at all easy. It demands prolonged action and exertion of a big effort in the various political, economic and cultural fields and it also demands new styles and means for suitably confronting the new circumstances, challenges and dangers."

Iraq's International Stand and the Factors that Affect It

It is not possible to talk about the external stand of any country without studying its internal conditions. Foreign policy is likened to a mirror that reflects basically the internal economic, social, cultural and political conditions of a country. Based on this, there are principle factors that control the form and content of the political decisions made concerning international relations. The most important factors are the following:

The prevailing forces inside the regime and their directions

The nature of the political and economic regime

The state's national and pan Arab interests

Foreign power influence and the degree it exerts

The political and economic weight that the state carries

The volume of the state's political and economic relations with other countries

Other factors specific to the circumstances of each state

The above mentioned factors are all taken into consideration in making political decisions concerning a state's external relations. If, however, an imbalance in these factors exists, then the making of a decision, or the taking of a stand, may not totally reflect national or pan Arab interest. A decision thus taken would, to a degree, reflect the interest of the ruling factions which have ties with foreign countries. Iraqi decision-making process with regard to foreign policy can best be evaluated and measured based on the extent of its adherence to its commitments to national and pan Arab interests and its freedom from foreign power influence.

Any stability in Iraq's foreign policy stands is evidently due to what the country has achieved in the last ten years and specifically since the glorious 17-30 July revolution which sought positive neutrality in the critical sense of the word. Iraq has put its interests and those of the Arab nation above all other interests and considerations, relying in its decision-making on impunity and qualities of strength, the prevalence of which are due to the following factors:

The leadership of the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party

The stability of the revolutionary regime, the burgeoning of its economic strength and the growth of its development plan

Liquidation of the centers of foreign powers and colonialism inside the country

The firmness and clarity of its principles in dealing with others

The perseverance which has characterized Iraq's struggle for completing the process of liberating the Arab nation and for building its unified state through putting national and pan Arab interests over and beyond all other considerations.

Iraq's Role in the Nonaligned Movement

It was natural for Iraq's role within the nonaligned movement to grow to such height. This is due not only to Iraq's conviction in the movement's principles and the expression given to the ambitions of the Arab masses in their struggle, but it is also due to the fact that the Party in Iraq looks at its role from a decisively ideological angle. The central report makes reference to this and states "that the revolution in Iraq, which forms the basic foundation in the Arab revolutionary movement, is part of the general human struggle towards freedom independence, progress and peace based on justice. Thus it is natural for the revolution in Iraq to contribute with all its potentialities for the enhancement of peoples' struggle in order that they achieve their lofty goals. The Arab revolution is not a closed revolution working within a confined frame of a state or a nation but it is a revolution with a human message. Its strategic and pragmatic policy is founded on the firm adherence to the national and pan Arab independence and on the exercise of Arab will, free from international power influences. It is not possible however to achieve independence through national and pan Arab effort alone, although this is essential, but independence should also be protected by an international framework. This

is why we look upon the nonaligned movement as a force that protects our independent course and our free determination."

Based on the above principles, Iraq, either through active participation in the movements' conferences or through concentrated contacts on all levels, has been active in the last few years particularly after leader President Saddam Hussayn took over the top responsibility of leading the party and the state, in working towards the crystallization of the proper stands taken by the nonaligned countries regarding the different issues and the international problems especially those confronting the Arab nation.

To enhance its role in the movement and to strengthen the prestige of the movement itself, Iraq provided a lot of economic aid to the countries of Asia and Africa. It considered [the granting of] such aid as one of the best means available to make these countries distant themselves from the domination and colonialism of international powers. It also wanted to give these countries the opportunity of making progress and independent development and to help them choose the stands that truly contribute to shaping their interests.

The central report was successful in properly tying the political and the economic factors together and setting the stage in motion within the circle of the nonaligned countries and the general countries of the Third World. These countries suffer from crises and economic problems and are therefore in need of honest financial backing to help them solve and get over their problems and to strengthen their resolve in facing colonialism and attempts at their domination. It is hoped that this backing would ultimately help them exercise a positive role on the international stage.

Evaluation of the Iraqi Experience and the Tasks that Lie Ahead in the Coming Phase

An honest evaluation of the Iraqi experience regarding its relations and dealings with countries, organizations, and liberation movements in the elapsed phase, confirms that Iraq has followed a course of ideological and progressive policy against colonialism and reactionary powers and has expended an exceptional effort to enhance the emerging centers of powers and support the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

In addition, Iraq has paid a particular attention to the contribution made by the Arab nation to civilization and the worthy place this nation should occupy among the nations of the world. And based on its ideological policy, Iraq has continued its struggle, which has been difficult at times, against the interference of international powers and some of the regimes in the area which have attempted, and are still attempting, through various means to block Iraq's plan of action or contain it in order to prevent its proliferation and to work to preempt it, so as to prevent that plan from achieving its intended results especially those that threaten the vital interests of the big powers and their centers of influence. The aggressive war that the Iranian regime is waging against Iraq, a war which has continued without an international effort to end it, is but part of a series of efforts aimed at weakening the country and paralyzing its role in the Arab world and internationally.

Based on the principles made clear above, Iraq has succeeded in establishing balanced and mutual relations with most of the countries in the world. The country has become more mature through the rich experience it has gained and has always sought objectivity in its international dealing and avoided taking preconceived stands against any country. It has used all its available means to extend its relations to all countries except those which follow and insist on following an aggressive conduct against it or against the interests of the Arab nation. On these basis, Iraq's relations with Western Europe, China and Japan have developed. Similarly, Iraq's relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have been maintained and its privileged position in the non-aligned movement enabled it to play a leading and a prominent role in it. This past phase has witnessed developed relations between the party and the world revolutionary movement.

The establishment of such wide and successful relations gave Iraq a positive return reflected clearly in the stands taken by world nations in supporting the struggle of the Iraqi people and the Arab nation in their just causes. The large support received by Iraq showed itself in the extent to which these nations identified with Iraq in its legitimate defense of its territories against the continued Iranian aggression and the nation's stands towards the struggle of our Palestinian people. In addition to this, Iraq's good relations with other countries was reflected in what the country achieved on the human stage and in the speed with which the Iraqi development projects were implemented, thus providing Iraq with more experience and know how.

If the past phase confirmed the soundness of Iraqi foreign policy, the coming phase will demand a great deal more effort and attention for developing relations with all countries and on the same basis which proved fruitful. In addition, it would be necessary in the coming phase, to exercise significantly more flexibility in international relations. Iraq is going through dangerous circumstances caused by the continued Iranian aggression which threatens its sovereignty, resources and the gains achieved through the struggle and through the great sacrifices made by its people.

The coming phase compels us, as evident by the central report, to maintain the level of relations achieved, and to work actively and persistently towards its growth and development. The nature of the circumstance Iraq is facing now necessitates exploiting the stands of the official and popular international public opinion in an effort to enlist it in putting a stop to the aggression of the Iranian regime. It also demands working towards exposing the Iranian claims and the claims of the powers that provide Iran with backing. This can be done through the creation of a rejectionist front among international public opinion for lobbying against the continuation of the war. It should be prepared to circumvent the aggressors who insist on continuing it. Punishment should be meted out to countries and powers that violate the will of the world community.

Iraq's active posture internationally, should help its progress in the next phase. The attitude of the international powers and Third World countries which is inevitably influenced by world public-opinion, may be more decisive in the future regarding the Iranian aggression against Iraq and regarding our judicious causes generally. The central report clearly indicates, with some details, the level of relation existing between Iraq, the countries of the

world and the liberation movements, and emphasizes that efforts should be focused "on strengthening the relations between parties, movements and the socialist powers that follow an independent course in international relations and who firmly believe in the principles of nonalignment. It also makes it clear that it is not necessary to use a confrontational style in dealing with the other countries that do not conform to the nonalignment principles." The report also emphasizes that "it is necessary for the international arena to witness characteristic action shown by parties and movements that believe in total independence and in the principles of freedom, justice and progress. This, not only conforms to and is compatible with the official action within the framework of the nonaligned movement, but is also complementary to it."

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CSO: 4404/276

OBSTACLES TO CONFEDERATION WITH PALESTINIANS DISCUSSED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 308, 15 Jan 83 p 31

[Article by Hani Khayr: "For These Reasons Confederation Between Jordan and Palestine Has Not Yet Been Discussed"]

[Text] After returning from his trip to Washington King Husayn is studying the steps that must be taken in conjunction with the PLO in order to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem. Arab circles expect a decision by King Husayn.

Following King Husayn's long trip to the United States and several European countries there has been renewed political activity in the Jordanian capital, after the prevailing atmosphere of slackness, inertia and expectation. The intensity of this activity has increased as a result of news reports that King Husayn will enter into negotiations with Israel with the cooperation of a delegation representing the PLO. Everyone here in Amman is anxiously waiting to see what King Husayn's visit to the United States produced, and whether the king achieved any positive results in his talks with President Reagan and other American officials.

Observers in Amman believe that the results of the U.S. trip did not satisfy King Husayn's expectations, and that the king is now studying the steps that he must now take after his extended talks with President Reagan and the members of his cabinet, particularly regarding the petition submitted by more than 200 congressmen calling for rejection of Jordan's arms request. It is a fact that the fingers of the Zionist lobby, in whose opinion arming Jordan poses a danger to Israel, were behind it. Diplomatic circles in Amman say that King Husayn currently has several doors through which he can enter into the negotiations along with the PLO. But this step faces several positive and negative factors, among them the following:

The U.S. administration currently has a strategic concern with a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, inasmuch as it is well-known that the primary goal of U.S. foreign policy under the Reagan administration is to curb the expansion of Soviet influence in the Middle East.

It is in the interest of the United States to achieve peace and security in the region for several reasons, among them the following:

1. To protect the moderate leaders in the Arab World.
2. If security in the region is disturbed it will become difficult, even for the United States, to control it.

The agonizing events in Lebanon have to a great extent weakened the Israeli position inasmuch as the massacres and crimes painted a pitch-black picture of Israel for world public opinion. This situation is in general completely different from the Israeli position toward al-Sadat in 1973. Furthermore, the Israeli domestic situation has become worse than some believe.

Economic conditions in the United States have not, in the view of observers of domestic affairs, given the Reagan administration much opportunity for domestic accomplishments, especially in view of the fact that the beginning of the presidential election campaign is approaching. As a result, these observers believe that President Reagan will, like former presidents, attempt to achieve political progress in the Middle East before the electoral battle grows more intense. President Reagan seems to be seriously trying to solve the problem and he is not prepared to accept Israel's suggestions lest that hamper progress, which that would lead to Reagan's loss of credibility both in his special project for the Middle East crisis and in U.S. relations with the Arab nations.

There has been an understanding in Washington circles that U.S. strategic interests are congruent with those of Israel. However, Israeli aspirations, which began to expand and grow in an attempt to dominate the Middle East have been contrary to the U.S. understanding of the strategic agreement. The United States has an interest in guaranteeing Israel's security but it does not want Israel to be completely dominant in the Middle East or that it easily fall into this clear deviation from the U.S. policy line.

The time factor has become a fundamental element in King Husayn's thinking in the sense that there will be nothing left to negotiate in the future if Israel continues its settlement projects and expulsion of the Arab inhabitants from the West Bank with such speed.

The psychological situation in which the residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are living as a result of the Israeli practices has become unbearable.

The idea of negotiating with the Israeli enemy used to be considered a traitorous criminal act. However, the initiative of al-Sadat and the ensuing movement, negotiations and talks have diminished the force of psychological resistance among the Arab people to plunging into the negotiating arena with Israel. A sign of this is that the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations have not encountered the harsh reverberations that were encountered by the Egyptian movements at an earlier time.

The current political situation in Jordan, and the circumstances and political exigencies it has had since the 1967 war do not allow it to disregard the active political participation of the Jordanian people in making a political decision. Therefore, any decision King Husayn might make in the absence of constitutional parliamentary institutions would be considered a personal individual decision. Furthermore, in its current situation Jordan cannot make a solo decision to enter into negotiations without clear, open and unanimous Arab approval.

Any negotiations with Israel, at whatever level or with whatever agenda, would require that the Arab negotiator offer some concessions in exchange for land. From the legal and national standpoint, this right can only be exercised by those who possess the right, namely the Palestinian people.

The societal makeup of the inhabitants of Jordan, who consist of Jordanians and Palestinians, makes the amount of allegiance to the regime different in the event that Jordan should enter the battle of negotiations.

Observers of current Israeli policy note that there are no questions of substance left for negotiation after Begin's statement that there is nothing to discuss with regard to Jerusalem, and that the Israeli settlements that have been built are a permanent part of Israel through historical right, and cannot be placed on the negotiating agenda. Begin has also engendered in the Israeli settlers political concepts that are considered extremely dangerous when he repeatedly announced that the West Bank is original Israeli territory that has been liberated from the Arabs. This means that entering into negotiations with Israel in the face of these ideas and beliefs will not be easy.

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CSO: 4404/213

VARIOUS AMBITIOUS PROGRAMS FOR REBUILDING COUNTRY REVIEWED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1374, 4 Mar 83 pp 54, 55

/Article by 'Adnan Karimah: "The Reconstruction of Lebanon in the World Bank: "A Plan To Spend 25 Billion Pounds in Three Years!"

/Text/ The regime in Lebanon is currently anxious to inform Arab officials of every stage of its political, military, economic and developmental activity, in view of the importance of this activity, after 8 years of war that destroyed most of the country's facilities, during which opportunists appeared, domestically and abroad, each pursuing his own role, especially since this period is experiencing the preparation for a takeoff to a new stage for the Lebanon of the future.

Besides informing Arab officials of the course of the tripartite negotiations going on among Lebanon, Israel and the United States--especially those related to the arrangements for the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces--Lebanese officials have been anxious to inform the governments of the Arab countries concerned of the developments that have occurred in the development plan and the World Bank's plan for the financing process by presenting and receiving information. Dr Muhammad 'Atallah, the chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council, invited the diplomatic representatives of the governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the Emirates and Iraq in Beirut, to a meeting was held on 18 February in his office in the presidential palace in Ba'abda, which was attended by about 24 experts from the World Bank.

It was observed that the meeting was restricted to representatives of the governments that had previously offered financial aid to Lebanon in fulfilment of the commitment they had made to pay a grant of \$2 billion at the Tunis summit. Thus the meeting was described as one that concerned Arab financing sources. Another meeting was also held with representatives of foreign financing sources, including some governments and international regional financing institutions.

What happened at the two meetings?

Dr 'Atallah presented two documents:

First, the redevelopment plan, which deals with the exceptional activity that the Lebanese government must carry out in the redevelopment stage which is estimated will last 8 or 9 years. He considered this document a living one, as it is renewed every day in light of the developments which occur, most important of which are:

A. Developments in prices.

B. Developments in the damage done.

C. Developments brought out by probing the damage; that is, the deeper the damages, the more the form and substance of the necessary remedies change, and these also change with the increased knowledge within the projects as they are being carried out, since estimates of matters on paper differ from estimates of them in the field and on the ground.

Dr 'Atallah informed the people at the meeting that the redevelopment plan was now being updated by sector and that the final report on this would be completed in the middle part of March. As regards the cost of that plan, estimates on this have increased from 60 billion pounds last summer to 70 billion pounds at present (that is, about \$17.5 billion).

The second document Dr 'Atallah presented is related to the program to carry out redevelopment plans in 1983 on the basis of their priorities. This has been given the name "the program of annual redevelopment spending," moving every plan or project on to the stage of execution after the Council of Ministers has given its approval. This year's program includes a number of projects in the following sectors:

Schools and some buildings related to them. The project concerns the conditions of 750 schools.

Housing: This deals with a number of projects, including the repair of damaged dwellings through loans, as well as loans for the purchase of housing for people with limited incomes and a project to solve the problem of refugees.

Potable water. Attention is being focussed on the capital, Beirut, which has been threatened by drought, in order to increase its sources of water, in addition to some other cities.

In this area attention is being focussed on three projects on whose execution the minister of water and electric resources, Eng Baha'-al-Din al-Bassat, is concentrating his attention, although in stages. These are:

1. The al-Litani project. Minister al-Bassat considers that it will be possible to resume proceeding with the execution of this project as soon as security conditions in the region become stable, especially since the National Department for the al-Litani River has most of the basic alternatives and is ready to complete field studies and start the execution of the projects it has ready and at hand. The first phase of this project will cost 1.86 billion pounds.

2. The project to bring water from the al-Awali River to Beirut. The study on this has been ready for 10 years, and a re-evaluation on the technical study and its compatibility with economic circumstances is now underway. This is a matter which in the opinion of Minister al-Bassat will take no more than a few months, and it will be possible to start work on it this year. One should bear in mind that the World Bank has become convinced that the project is economically feasible

and is prepared to do the financing, and negotiations are underway to bring that about. Execution will take about 4 years; the project will provide about 250,000 cubic meters a day, and cost 600 million pounds.

3. The project to bring water from the al-Damur springs to Beirut. The study on this is ready and the work can be approved for bids in a few days, as soon as some negotiations that are underway on financing the construction are completed. The construction of the entire project could be completed in a year, and it will provide the city of Beirut with 35,000 to 50,000 cubic meters a day. In actuality, this project, for the most part, is considered part of the project to pipe al-Awali water from Khaldah to Beirut, since it will be possible to use the project to provide potable water for the villages situated between al-Damur and Khaldah by separating the project from the Beirut line at the point of Khaldah, as soon as the construction of the basic al-Awali project is completed. The cost of this will come to 132 million pounds.

Upgrading roads, by performing the necessary repairs, maintenance and reinforcement on them and completing the expressway in the north and south.

Local repairs, for instance in the sewage and dirty water drainage systems, and a cleanup of debris throughout Lebanon.

The commercial center in the city of Lebanon. The redevelopment spending program this year will be restricted to the execution of the project on the section of the coast road from the Phoenicia Hotel to Charles Hilw Boulevard. The costs of this are estimated at between 400 and 450 million pounds.

The total expenditures on the redevelopment program for 1983, in toto, are estimated at 1.5 to 2 billion Lebanese pounds.

How will the financing process be carried out?

This is where the role of the World Bank comes in. Its experts who attended the two meetings presented the Arab and foreign sources of financing with the main outlines of a detailed report that will be put in final form before the end of March. They may be summarized as follows:

First, a "descriptive" discussion of the economic and financial situation and the general financial condition of the government in Lebanon.

The director general of the Ministry of Finance, Dr Khattar Shibli, had previously pointed out that the total budget and treasury deficit together came to 13,569,000,000 pounds at the end of 1982 and that the total unpaid loans of various kinds for which the government was liable came to 14,623,000,000 pounds. Dr Shibli warned of the large size of these figures and described the increase in the deficit as "threatening the economic, financial and monetary situation with the most extreme danger." One should bear in mind that this comes to about 80 percent of the gold and foreign currency cover of the money in circulation.

Second, a sectoral presentation dealing with the problems of specific sectors, such as housing, potable water, telecommunications and so forth.

Third, reliance on a plan derived from the general redevelopment plan set forth by the Development and Reconstruction Council. This includes reconstruction spending over a period of 3 years (1983, 1984 and 1985), whose costs have been estimated at about 15 billion pounds, which will be allocated to projects, in addition to 10 billion pounds to support the government budget.

Fourth, the immediate initiative propose giving a loan of 1 billion pounds to international and regional financing sources as well as governments, provided that the World Bank head up the participants.

This loan is to be considered very minor in comparison with the sum of 25 billion pounds that must be provided for spending on redevelopment in Lebanon in the next 3 years. Therefore it is expected that the World Bank will decide to propose giving other similar loans before the end of this year.

Since the meeting with the representatives of Arab and foreign financing was just "for media purposes," no one made any commitments, but elected instead to go back to their countries governments or institutions, to inform them of Lebanon's redevelopment plan and the World Bank's financing plan!

Contacts between Lebanon and the World Bank and the various sources of financing will continue on the basis of these two plans so that agreement may be reached with them over the means for participating in the redevelopment projects.

It is well known that the World Bank's serious interest in helping Lebanon started last November, when a delegation of experts came to Beirut under directives from the president of the bank, Mr Claussen, and a draft report on the results of its exploratory visit was presented. Then an expanded delegation of 24 experts in various fields of specialization came toward the end of January and held detailed discussions with the ministries and general organizations, in addition to the Redevelopment and Reconstruction Council, on all the projects that were to be carried out. Its mission ended on 19 February, and it is to present its final report in the middle of March.

It appears that all this financing effort will flow into a fund, or "foreign aid account for the redevelopment of Lebanon." This aid will be determined by the governments of the countries or international and regional financing organizations, and may be the most important instrument in the financing process.

However, there are other instruments of financing available on the market which are related to foreign lending facilities. In all advanced countries, there are organizations that help encourage foreign investments by industrial countries and help provide the necessary financing for them. That means that when a company receives a contract to construct a project abroad, it immediately turns to financing organizations to guarantee the investment, such as COFACE in France, Hermes in West Germany or the EGCI in Britain. These organizations guarantee and cover loans for 10 years at rates of interest which the countries set among themselves, ranging from 7 to 9 percent. These loans can become more attractive when they are combined with loans the countries to which the investing companies belong are offering. An example of that are the loans that have been concluded with France and Italy, which consist of:

Seventy percent in export loans to companies receiving investment contracts in Lebanon.

Thirty percent in a government-to-government loan for a period of 20 years at 2 percent interest.

Numerous industrial countries have asked Lebanon to conclude agreements with them similar to those concluded with France and Italy. Among these are West Germany, Britain, The Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Canada and Japan.

Lebanese officials welcome an emphasis on this approach, because it offers mutual benefits to both parties. On the one hand it provides easy investments and loans to finance the construction on redevelopment projects, and on the other Lebanon will thus be helping to support the industries of countries that are giving it these facilities.

With the competition among companies to obtain the contracts, it is up to Lebanon to choose the best in terms of price and quality.

In order to learn about the extent to which the international companies are interested in investing their money in carrying out the redevelopment projects, one might point out that 300 companies took out application forms to qualify for the awarding of the coastal road project to the commercial center in the city of Beirut. When the acceptance of the applications was stopped, the number of companies of various nationalities from Europe, America, Canada, Japan and so forth making submissions came to 60. The Lebanese officials were surprised by this great number, and this caused a delay in the review of the applications, on account of the time needed to study them and establish their worthiness. It is anticipated that the studies will be completed by the end of this March.

What is the explanation for this?

Dr Muhammad 'Atallah, the president of the Reconstruction and Redevelopment Council, who is studying the companies' qualification applications, said "This reflects a number of issues, the most important of which are:

"The world's interest in Lebanon. The world is familiar with our country as a small market, and today it knows it as a market where demand has accumulated and needs to yield a profit.

"A feeling that becomes stronger as the security measures progress, which lies in the fact that work has become possible, easy and normal in Lebanon, as it was in the past.

"The attention of companies from countries that have increased their interest in Lebanon.

"The recession throughout the world, especially in the advanced countries."

IMPLICATIONS OF SAM-5 DEPLOYMENT DISCUSSED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 298, 17-23 Jan 83 p 33-36

[Article by Wadi' al-Hulw: "The Israeli Uproar Over the Syrian Missiles: Warning Of a New War Or the Negotiating Table? Israel May Launch a War For Security Against Syria Similar To the Peace For Galilee Operation If It Perceives That the Power Of Decision Is Slipping From Its Hand"]

[Text] Israel's loud talk about the construction of two SAM A-5 bases on Syrian territory has opened a deep wound in the decisions of the Fez Arab summit conference. At that time observers believed that the agreement by the attending nations to a unified peace project was a crowning achievement for moderate Arab efforts made by those who are called the Arabs of the Americans. To the extent that the Israeli uproar has been protracted, Syria has clearly become exposed, and the Israeli uproar itself has hit the "moderate Arabs" and has pushed them into the corner of moderation after their diplomatic efforts designed to convince the United States about the Fez peace plan faltered. The whole reason for this is that Israel unequivocally explained that what it required was not only to eliminate the Arab military options, but also to eliminate the Arab capability to confront the Israeli military option. Thus, while Syria was warned by its news media that Israel was preparing to strike the Syrian missiles, it was told by the Egyptian minister of defense, Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, that it has the right to deploy any kind of missiles to defend itself. The Egyptian minister of defense made his statement in the context of accusing Israel of threatening the peace in the Middle East. In other words, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah was speaking about Egypt's right to provide itself with advanced American weapons to replace its Soviet weapons. All of that is, of course, within the framework of the Egyptian-Israeli peace which does not mean that Egypt has relinquished its right to arm itself with the latest weapons. Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the Egyptian foreign minister, ventured the opinion that advanced missiles in Syria's possession would not alter the current military situation in the region. At the same time President Husni Mubarak accused Syria of obstructing a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis, when he said, "Syria does not want any solution."

The SAM A-5 Missile

So far, the Israeli verbal escalation, which may soon be translated into action if Israel is able to carefully sort out the possibilities, has fluctuated between threats and explanations of the danger resulting from Syria's possession of the SAM A-5 missiles. In a statement Gen Rafael Eytan, the Israeli chief of staff, said, "The Syrian missiles pose a danger not only to Israel but also to the U.S. fleet and other American interests in the region." The JERUSALEM POST believes that "One of the main objectives of the war in Lebanon was to remove the threat of a Syrian attack." It added, "The Syrian defeats gave Menahem Begin a long period of peace for Israel. But these expectations have not been correct. The Syrian defeats have also given President Hafiz al-Asad the opportunity to discover the weak points in his army and his aerial weaponry, and to obtain whatever Soviet weapons are necessary to plug up the gaps. Syria will be able to achieve the strategic balance it is seeking. This will allow it, a year later, to launch a limited war to recover the Golan." The question being asked is will Israel, as it has customarily done, preempt the possible buildup of the Syrian armed forces and launch a limited strike to prevent the completion of this buildup? Will Israel be able to launch a strike into Syria and ignore [in view of] the treaties of friendship and cooperation between Damascus and Moscow?

The Soviet Goal

In any event, Israel believes that the presence of two or more SAM-5 missile bases in Syria constitutes a threat to Israeli air superiority. According to Ze'v Schiff, the military correspondent for the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ, "The installation of the SAM 5 missile bases in Syria presents an extremely grave problem for the Israeli air force." HA'ARETZ itself says, "The Soviet goal is to prove to the Americans that there can be no compromise in the Middle East--in Lebanon or elsewhere--without Moscow. If this theory is confirmed it will have more serious consequences for the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations and for the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon." According to Abba Eban, the former Israeli foreign minister, "The Soviet step is not unrelated to the Galilee operation. We broadened this war for no reason, and Sharon has made irrational statements." Israeli Minister of Defense Ariel Sharon had called Syria's attention to the fact that Israel was now positioned 25 km from Damascus. After a discussion of the question of the Syrian missiles the committee on foreign affairs and security in the Knesset announced that "Syria's acquisition of the SAM-5 missiles does not radically alter the balance of power."

Fundamental Questions

The important thing in all of the discussions that went on last week about Syria's possession of a SAM-5 missile network is that they repeated three essential and fundamental questions about the continuing conflict in and around the Middle East:

1. The question of strategic balance between Syria and Israel. This is a matter on which it is becoming more and more certain that Syria will not yield.

2. If the key to war in the Middle East is held by the United States, there are two keys to peace, one of which is held by Moscow.

3. The entire region is plunging ahead militarily toward an international bilateral polarization, specifically an American-Soviet polarization. Israel will see itself depending more and more on the United States to continue holding the key to war in the Middle East, while yearning for U.S. participation with the key to peace. Syria will see itself more and more compelled to depend on the Soviet Union to hold on to the key of peace because the current balance of power prevents Syria and the Soviet Union from taking the key to war.

Naturally, say informed sources, all of this might not prevent Israel from undertaking a military operation similar to the Lebanon operation whenever it felt that it had lost control of the situation. Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Yitzhaq Shamir alluded to that in a statement in which he called for cooperation between the governments of Lebanon and Israel "to prevent any occurrence of a situation with which Israel would be compelled to make another decision to carry out an operation similar to the Peace for Galilee operation."

The Opportunity

In fact, Americans have begun to speak aloud demanding openly that Israel has so far been demanding secretly. At a news conference he held in Jerusalem after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas stated that he believes Syria wants to obstruct the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. He said that he was not opposed to the removal of Syrian forces from Lebanon by force. But if the Israeli army has emphasized that it would be no military problem for them to expel the Syrian forces from Lebanon, as the statements of the U.S. senator seemed to indicate, Israeli and American diplomacy would block the intended results of such an operation, in view of the fact that the "opportunity" which has been discussed by the American and Israeli news media with regard to the Lebanon operation is not an opportunity in the true sense of the word as acknowledged by everyone now, as well as by the United States and Israel. The Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are faltering. Several politicians have begun to fear that these negotiations will turn out like the negotiations for Palestinian autonomy. This is after the arrival of information from Washington to the effect that the U.S. concern this year will be to give a push to the autonomy discussions after King Husayn joins in. However, [we must] remember that the king is unlikely to join unless he feels in advance that the talks will have tangible results. This is also the situation with regard to the required authorization from Mr Yasir 'Arafat to King Husayn. The PLO leader will not give the required authorization before the United States announces its recognition of the PLO and its preeminent legal claim to represent the Palestinian people.

Does all this mean that the American peace efforts will be stopped by a brick wall? Is there anything to prevent an attempt by Israel to break down this wall? What if the wall is broken down and everyone finds himself in front of another wall?

A Story About a Jew

A political source says that the current situation resembles the situation of a Jew who was very unhappy with his wretched situation. So he went to the rabbi to complain about it. The Jew explained his circumstances saying that he lived with his family, consisting of five children and a wife, in a single room, and that he also had a cow, a sheep, an ass and a dog which he was compelled to keep outside. The rabbi advised him to bring his animals inside the room and he would be relieved of the worry of having to keep them outside. The Jew did as the rabbi advised him, but no sooner had he done so than he returned complaining of his distress in having the animals in the room. The rabbi advised him to put the dog out first. When he returned to express his relief over the removal of the dog the rabbi advised him to put out the ass, then the sheep and the cow. Finally the Jew expressed his complete pleasure over his life of luxury with his family in the room.

At this point informed circles are saying that the haste with which the United States has sent its envoy to the Middle East is intended to prevent such a perception among those concerned with its initiative in the region. The United States, which has demonstrated its concern for Israeli security, has at the same time stressed that it has its own security concerns and interests which require the elimination of Soviet influence. This elimination requires peace between the United States and the Arabs. The Arab countries are still searching for it but have not found it. A delegation of the seven-nation Arab committee bumped into the British wall before the American wall. Continued military tension in the region will threaten the security of everyone and will make the U.S. peace efforts a big question mark buried in the sands of the Middle East. The biggest danger from all this is that we are now witnessing the beginning of American involvement, which is what the Soviet Union wants, and which does not offer the United States any way out of it. The question of the Syrian missiles may be the beginning of a new war, or it may be the beginning of new negotiations which will include everyone. Informed circles do not seem optimistic about the negotiating table. It seems clear and certain that Israel's war decision still needs the green light from the United States. Syria's acceptance of a political solution requires greater Soviet support which Syria will apparently get and rely on more than ever before.

9123

CSO: 4404/212

SYRIA

PROBLEMS WITH NEW CEMENT PROJECT FOUND

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 298, 17-23 Jan 83 pp 45-46

[Article: "Has Damascus Found a Solution To the Problem Of Ensuring an Adequate Supply Of Cement? Construction Of the Largest Factory In the Middle East Is Facing Some Errors In Planning; the Most Conspicuous Shortcomings Are Incompatibility Of Mechanical Parts and the Scandalously Slow Rate Of Implementation"]

[Text] The hopes Syria has placed in the possibility of freeing itself from a shortage of cement after construction of what is regarded as the largest cement factory in the Middle East between Tartus and Latakia, have been confronted by fundamental problems that should have been taken into account before construction of the factory began.

A report prepared by Syrian engineers working on the factory along with East German advisors has revealed that there have been numerous shortcomings in the construction of the factory which may hinder its production capacity and gradually diminish its importance over a long period of time.

According to the report, which was submitted to the Syrian Ministry of Industry, the decision to build the factory did not take into consideration an analysis of the economic benefit of its construction--its location, time factors, the production capacity or anticipated income. Preparation of this study began after construction had already begun, and after Syria had signed agreements with several nations to help in the construction of the factory, and had paid no less than 20 million Syrian pounds toward construction. The report added that the cost-benefit analysis showed several things, some positive and others negative. The most prominent were the following:

1. The availability of locally produced raw materials for the factory will keep the factory going for only about 40 years at the most. This is a very short life span for a factory of this size and cost.
2. From a commercial standpoint the site of the factory is excellent in view of its position between two important Syrian ports, Tartus and Latakia. This gives it a distinct advantage if the process of ensuring raw materials is handled carefully.

The cost-benefit study shows that the problem of ensuring the raw materials is not a simple one. Attempts at ensuring a supply of raw materials from other areas and through ordinary shipping will inevitably lead to increased production costs and consequently diminished economic benefit for the factory for one thing, and for another it will lead to limiting the production capacity which will also contribute to reducing the factory's income.

Handling these two problems certainly requires the ability to determine other nearby areas from which the raw materials can be obtained through an exploratory technique well-known in these factories, namely the conveyor belt method.

According to the report the cost-benefit study comes to the conclusion that construction of the factory should have been subject to further study, particularly in view of the fact that it was built on land that had been filled with olive trees, and that about 50,000 olive trees were cut down to build the factory. This is a steep price for a project before it was even implemented.

In their report the Syrian engineers say that there were additional mistakes in implementation which could have been easily corrected. They are the following:

1. Changing the site of the conveyor belt which brings raw materials to the factory, on the pretext that a highway would pass the region, has so far not happened. This has led to the loss of about 2 million Syrian pounds as the difference in the cost of the conveyor belt which it was assumed would be about 50 meters long but turned into 2 km.
2. The equipment used in the factory is from a variety of sources which reduces its mechanical compatibility and makes maintenance difficult. In particular, long periods of idleness may result when there is a need for spare parts, some of which may arrive from one country while those from another country are delayed.
3. The scandalously slow pace at which construction of the factory has proceeded, has certainly affected its economic benefit.

The report concludes by emphasizing that all of these mistakes could have been avoided, particularly in a project of this magnitude.

The report emphasizes that all these mistakes will certainly not prevent the factory, which is the largest white cement factory in the Middle East, from being truly profitable, and that Syria will be able, at least for the next 40 years, to avoid a shortage of this kind of cement, particularly in light of the widespread development activity taking place in the various governorates and districts.

9123

CSO: 4404/213

MOUNTING REBEL-SOVIET CONFRONTATIONS DESCRIBED

Attacks on Tehran, Paris, Bonn Embassies

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 26 Feb 83 p 3

[Text]

Afghan Demonstrators burned and stole Soviet flags and splashed red paint on Russian offices in world capitals marking the third anniversary of the Kremlin's takeover of Afghanistan.

Tehran Radio said thousands of Afghan refugees gathered in front of the Soviet Embassy in the Iranian capital, shouting slogans and carrying posters of Iran's ruler, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The Soviet Union charged the demon-

strators were in fact Iranians who stormed into the embassy and stole a Soviet flag with the "obvious connivance" of the Iranian government.

About 300 Afghan exiles and their supporters marched peacefully in front of the Soviet mission in New York City, carrying signs and shouting, "Get out of Afghanistan!"

In Paris, retiring Soviet Ambassador Stefan Chervonenko, after a farewell visit to Premier Pierre

Mauroy, said in a repetition of his country's policy: "Those who wish to see the Soviet Union leave Afghanistan as quickly as possible must on their side end foreign interference in the domestic affairs of this sovereign state."

Dozens of demonstrators from non-Communist unions and various anti-Soviet groups carried posters in front of the Soviet Embassy in Paris, reading, "Moscow assassins!" and "Support the people of Afghanistan!"

The French Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning "the foreign intervention in Afghanistan" without naming the Soviet Union.

In Bonn, 500 demonstrated against the Soviet occupation.

More than 500 Afghan protesters led by young girls chanting, "Down with Russia!" marched to the gates of the Soviet Embassy in New Delhi and burned a Soviet flag to mark the anniversary.

Soviets Attacked in Kabul

Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY EXPRESS in English 3 Mar 83 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, India — Afghan guerrillas launched simultaneous night attacks on Soviet facilities last week in the center of Kabul, including a rocketing of

the embassy, western diplomatic sources here said Tuesday.

The attacks led to the first exchange of tank shots between Soviet troops patrolling the

city, said the sources, who had only sketchy details of the fighting.

They said guerrillas also targeted a Soviet base at Dard Aman and

the Micro Rayen complex, which houses Soviet advisers and senior Afghan government officials.

Kabul authorities announced that three persons died in the attack.

The sources noted there had been a "notable increase" in the number of patients entering hospitals with gunshot wounds.

Other targets included a Soviet-built grain silo at Kote Sangi and the Taj Bee Palace, a Soviet military compound on the city's northern outskirts.

Resistance fighters also managed to pound a military outpost at Fazel Beg, killing at least 12 of the garrison, said the sources, quoting latest dispatches from Kabul.

The diplomats said guerillas apparently inflicted little damage on the Soviet Embassy because they failed to break through the defensive perimeter. AP

Afghan Villages Flattened

Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY EXPRESS in English 4 Mar 83 p 10

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Soviet troops have begun flattening whole villages beside the main highways in Afghanistan to ensure the safe movement of convoys which have been continually harassed by Mujahedeen guerillas, reports reaching this border town said today.

The Soviets, who reportedly suffered between 10,000 and 12,000 casualties mainly in convoy ambushes in the past three years of their occupation of Afghanistan, have been avoiding highways and supplies were delivered by air because of guerilla hazards.

However, after first deciding to cut trees and clear bushes along the strategic highways to deny cover to the anti-communist guerillas they have now started removing all kinds of structure along the main roads.

In Kabul, Logar, Kandhar and some northern provinces, according to Afghan travellers, villages within 60 meters of road have been removed. Hundreds of houses have been flattened along the roads linking main cities and new military outposts are being set up encircling big cities to prevent rebel penetrations.

The existing posts are also being reinforced with stockpiling of light and heavy weaponry. These posts equipped with long-range cannon capable of shelling up to a distance of 12 kms will be used to launch direct attacks on Mujahedeen hideouts in the suburbs, the travellers said.

CSO: 4600/408

AFGHANISTAN

CONSEQUENCES OF KABUL BOMBINGS DESCRIBED

Authorities Increase Patrols

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 17 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 16: Afghan military authorities have increased patrols in Kabul over the past few weeks to find men eligible for conscription into the plagued Afghan army, western diplomats said here.

Afghan defense officials are thinking of increasing the age-limit for the draft from 40 to 50 years and might recall men who have completed military service since 1969, the diplomats said.

Military service was increased last year from two to three years in order to maintain troop levels, which total about 20,000, western military experts said.

But Kabul residents have organized against the draft in an increasingly common practice, families send teenage males to rural areas controlled by the resistance or in refugee camps in Pakistan.

Richer families manage to pay off patrols which come to their homes, convincing them to "come back tomorrow", by which time the sons will be in hiding or have fled, the diplomats said.

At the bazaar in the Afghan capital children from five to 13 years of age are organized into an early-warning system to let shop keepers know when recruiting patrols are on the way.--AFP

Students Hold Massive Rally

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 1 Mar 83 p 7

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 28--The Afghan capital Kabul was rocked by a series of bomb blasts last week in which over a dozen people were officially reported killed.

The state run Radio Kabul said today 13 persons died in two different explosions.

Western diplomatic sources here said the capital was hit by several bomb blasts, after an Afghan resistance call to observe the third anniversary last Tuesday of student agitation against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

On Feb. 22, 1980, Afghan students held a massive rally including, for the first time in the country's history, girls from Kabul schools. At least six students were reported killed during these demonstrations.

The recent blasts followed the distribution at night of resistance leaflets calling for people to strike and shout slogans on rooftops to protest communist rule.

Western diplomatic sources reported several explosions in the Darul Aman area, the southern flank of the capital.

Radio Kabul said three persons died and several were wounded when a bomb exploded in the main market area.

Diplomatic reports said one government worker's bus was attacked by the guerillas in Darul Aman. Radio Kabul said 10 persons were burned alive when explosive material thrown by the "enemies of the revolution" set the vehicle on fire.

Despite extra security measures and a red alert given to the army the guerilla activity continued last Tuesday, sources said.

Western diplomatic sources said that people did not strike and that shops remained open since the Soviet-backed regime had issued prior warnings that goods would be confiscated if they closed their shops. (AFP)

CSO: 4600/407

ARMED GROUP LEADERS SPEAK OUT FOR KARMAL REGIME

Rajab 'Ali of People's Democratic Party

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 17 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] "The revolution is forging ahead. Let the dogs of the West and imperialism bark. Afghanistan is the birthplace of heroes and gallants. The people of this country will never bow to the reactionary and imperialist forces. They are dealing a jawbreaking blow to imperialism and reaction. Our heroic and revolutionary Afghanistan will remain a hero in history."

This was stated by Rajab Ali one of the Keshm county, Badakhshan province, one of the leaders of armed groups who have joined the side of the revolution.

He noted: "If we look at the pages of the shining history of the struggle of our people against oppression and injustice, we realise that the people of Afghanistan have always risen against cruelty, despotism, tyranny and injustice and waged long struggles."

"A number of such heroic and gallant people founded a proud party, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, during the reign of Mohammad Zahir Shah and started a long struggle against the oppression of the monarchical regime until they brought to victory the glorious Saur Revolution with the support of the people. With this revolution, which is national and democratic in nature, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan intended to serve the people of this country who had suffered for years under the yoke of the tyranny of Yahya dynasty. We are happy that the Saur Revolution serves the interest of the peasants, workers and toilers in Afghanistan," he added.

"But we regret", he went on, that, soon after the victory of the revolution, sanguinary Amin came to power and led the revolution astray orphaning thousands of children to become fatherless and widowing thousands of women."

"The oppression and cruelty of Amin and his clique compelled a large number of people to escape and take up arms and fight against the party and state. This state of affairs led us to join the so-called Hezbe Islami. We served for some time in this band. We witnessed how prosperously the leaders of

"the counter-revolution were living and how pathetic were the others' conditions. Consequently, our people said goodbye to the counter-revolution and joined the side of the revolutionary Government of Afghanistan", he recalled.

Answering a question Rajab Ali said: "Since the time we have joined the side of the revolutionary state, we have rescued around 5,000 people from the clutches of counter-revolutionary bandits. Our people have founded agricultural cooperatives in the Keshm county of the Badakhshan province and set up security posts in every village and reconstructed schools. Now the security of roads and highways, is maintained by the militant youth. We have rebuilt the destroyed bridges. In our country, the hospital has been reopened and equipped with medicines and doctors."

At the end of the interview, he asked the Kabul New Times, to convey this message to the countrymen. "Dear valorous compatriots, try not to be deceived by the servants of Britain and the United States of America. Extend a helping hand to each other and defend your beloved homeland. Bring the desperate efforts of the British and devouring United States to failure and do not let them deceive our valorous youth."

Mirza Mohammad of Hezbee Eslami

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 19 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] "The counter-revolutionary groups rise up in hostility against one another in a bid to receive money and property. They try to annihilate one another", one leader of an armed group, now on the side of the revolution and the PDPA, told Kabul New Times recently.

Mirza Mohammad, a militant young man who wears a long beard, is from the Qarabagh county of Kabul province and for some time he was a leader of one terrorist armed group in the so-called Hezbi-Islami.

Recalling his cooperation with the counter-revolution, Mirza Mohammad said: "My brether, I tell you and you write it down and judge what the counter-revolutionary groups are doing. As a result of deceit of the enemies of the homeland, I left my homeland and went to Pakistan. There, I joined the 'Hezbi Islami' group. The leaders of this band used to tell us to, first of all fight with other counter-revolutionary groups and get them disarmed. If they (other groups) make no agreement with you and do not cooperate with you crush them all, was what our leaders said. They also told us to go to the villages, collect money and fines from the inhabitants. The money thus collected belonged only to the Hezbi Islami. Don't give it to any body else, the leaders said."

"During the period when I served as a leader of my armed group, I was ordered to attack other groups. The counter-revolution groups were fighting each other day and night. These groups are also competing for combat operations against the evillages and towns and engaging in murder, plunder and destruction. Whenever we saw standing crop in a village, the different

"counter-revolutionary groups began to plunder and loot the crop and take away a large part of it. In doing so, sometimes fights erupted between the different bandit groups, as a result of which a good number of the members of the various armed group were killed. Sometimes, as a result of this hostility, the crop was also burnt and thus the product of the labour of our peasants was wasted.

"I can cite tens of other cases of examples of the subversive activities which are carried out by the different armed counter-revolutionary bands. At last, I thought that all these activities were in vain and could bear no fruit. This led me to join the revolution and cooperate with the party and the revolutionary state. At present, I have the honour of being a member of the revolutionary defence group in Parwan city, the capital of Parwan province."

Mirza Mohammad went on: "Since the time I have come over to the revolutionary state, the other counter-revolutionary armed groups have put 20 people of my clan into dungeons. But I don't worry, because they will be rescued and freed through the revolutionary activities of my revolutionary comrades and the cooperation of the party and the state organs."

Pointing to other subversive activities of the counter-revolution, Mirza Mohammad said: "They enter people's houses without any reason and imprison wealthy persons so that they can squeeze them for money. Whenever the members of counter-revolutionary bandit groups get rich, they resort to luxury and refrain from fighting and terrorist activity. But whenever they are short of money, they again start plundering and murdering. Therefore, whoever has some common sense and comprehension will never be prepared to join these groups of counter-revolution and cooperate with them. Cooperation with these terrorist armed groups will lead to destruction of the country and discomfort of the toiling people. The better way, in my view, is to toil and do hard work in order to make a good living and stand high-headed and proud before our people and let our conscience be at rest. The result will be in the interest of the construction of the country, prosperity of the people and well-being of the future generation", said he.

Mawlawi Qutar of Kunar Province

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 20 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] "In our country, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the people are pursuing their religious activities and rites freely, with the blessing of God the Merciful. The DRA, according to its basic principles and policy, has guaranteed the freedom in the sphere of religious activities".

This was said by Mawlawi Mohammad Saleh Ourta, the 'imam' and preacher of the congregational mosque of the Kamdesh vi-lage, Nooristan district, Kunar province, in an interview to the Kabul New Times.

He added: "I am 60 years old now and, out of this time, I have spent 40 years in teaching and preaching Islamic laws".

"When the Saur Revolution became a reality in 1357 HS (1978)", he recalled, "some people started spreading the propaganda that Islam was in danger and steps should be taken for preserving it and, repeatedly, I was hearing similar other rumours in this regard and I recollected the propaganda which were spread during the reign of Amanullah Khan by Britishers when efforts were made to divert the attention of the people from the right path chosen by them and consequently these rumours ended in provoking the people to violence and revolt."

"People of this category, who are carrying out the same kind of acts of subversion now, are the followers of the same old enemies of our homeland. Therefore, I took the decision to inform my people about such false propaganda and tell them that nobody has taken such measures to violate the laws of the religion of Islam and will not dare to do so in the future."

He went on: "After sometime, the decree of general amnesty was issued by the DRA and the deceived countrymen were invited to return to their homeland without hesitation. The decree said, those deceived people who want to return to their homeland will be welcomed warmly by the authorities of the DRA. Due to this declaration, I strengthened my activities to convince the people that nothing will happen to Islam and, in a short time, I was enabled to attract over 800 people around the party and Government".

"This activity of mine elicited the fury of the counter revolutionaries and they resorted to a series of subversive actions and crimes. For example, they plundered my property which was the gain of my lifetime and killed my brother and my nephew", he said.

"They blamed me for coming to Kabul and supporting the policy of our Government. So they issued a call for my killing because, they said, I had violated the Islamic laws and I was supposed to be killed.

He added: "Islam never permits its followers to establish friendship with Zionists, but today we see that those who are fighting under the pretext of Jihad (crusade) and call themselves the defenders of Islam are joining the US, Israel and Britain and these are the countries where Zionism flourishes.

"The point", he said, "is that the US has allegedly the intention of defending Islam and Muslims. Then they ought to defend the defenceless Muslim people of Palestine and Lebanon, check the aggression of Israel not to make attacks on the territory of the Muslim Arabs".

"The recent raids on the Shatila and Sabra camps by Israel which resulted in the killing of thousands of innocent children, old people and women at the instigation of the US imperialism is a sample of the US and Israel love for Islam", he pointed out.

"Every knowledgeable man can judge well whether the US is protecting Islam or not. There is a crystal clear answer to that--never and not at all", he stressed. The Maulawi went on, "The religion of Islam does not permit its followers to kill a Muslim brother, but I have seen with my own eyes how the groups of counter-revolutionaries kill innocent Muslims"

"No religion in the world permits the setting on fire of villages, mosques and schools, but, where we live, over 50 villages have been set on fire by the bandits without any reason and this is another illustration of their love for Islam."

The Maulawi added: "It is the saying of the Prophet Mohammad that one should go even to China for knowledge."

"Now, according to this saying, is it a sin to gain knowledge, which is why the counter-revolutionaries are killing students and setting on fire schools and kidnapping the teachers? The answer to this question is No, Islam does not forgive such actions and will not forgive such people for ever."

At the end, he said, "I, as a religious leader, call on all those people who have taken up arms against the revolution and the Government, on the basis of Islamic instruction, to obey the order of their God, the people and the state and refrain from violence and put themselves in the service of their people and homeland and not to spare their sacrifice in this regard."

'Abdul Ghaffer of the Mujahedia

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 22 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] One of the main reasons for being deceived and joining the counter-revolutionary groups was illiteracy", said Abdul Ghaffar, known as Pahlawan (Wrestler), in an interview with the Kabul New Times.

"I am illiterate", he said, "and a farmer by profession. Most of our villagers are illiterate and ignorant. When the Saur Revolution was brought to victory and Amin came to power, he started torturing the people. At the same time the enemies' hostile propaganda was intensified. Rumours were generated that infidelity was coming into Afghanistan. We knew nothing because most of us were illiterates and were not aware of the facts. Thus we were deceived and joined the Jamiat-i-Islami band and got armed."

"I cooperated with the counter-revolution for more than one year", he recalled. "I was the commander of an armed group and due to ignorance and illiteracy, I thought that I was fighting for Islam. But, when, I came to know the real faces of the so-called Afghan 'Mojahidin', I found out they were telling lies. Thus, soon after, I developed a kind of hatred towards them."

"Gradually", he went on, "I realised that it was the revolutionary Government that worked for the benefit of the toilers of Afghanistan. Therefore, finally, I joined the side of and cooperated with my revolutionary Government along

"with 2,000 armed men. Furthermore, more than 20,000 inhabitants of our county came over to the side of the revolution. Now our people know how the enemies of Afghanistan conduct propaganda among the illiterate people and how they deceive them and use them in their own interest."

"When I was serving with the counter-revolutionary bandits, they tried to set schools and hospitals on fire and prevent our compatriots from becoming literate", he noted.

"Now, that we have joined the side of the progressive regime of our country", he continued, "we have pledged together with the people of my tribe to serve the cause of the Saur Revolution until the last breath. We are prepared to serve our party and the revolutionary Government. We accept whatever the party and revolutionary Government say. We make every sacrifice in implementing the plans of the party and the state."

"We straightened everything", he added, "in our county, Sang-i-Charak of the Jauzjan province. We, the people of Sang-i-Charak, are prepared to supply land and money for construction of schools and other public institutions. In this way, we want literacy courses to be set up in all villages and towns of our country. We wish to the people of Sang-i-Charak out of illiteracy and ignorance so that they would not be deceived any more by the enemies of the Saur Revolution."

"We give the assurance", he said, "to our DRA Government that we are ready to establish peace and security in other provinces of the country. We are sure that those who have been deceived by the propaganda of the enemies of the Saur Revolution will realise the truth of the Saur Revolution and soon join the side of the revolutionary Government and take part in the development of their provinces and support the programmes of action of the state."

"Similarly", he went, "we are prepared to shed the last drop of our blood for the realisation of the lofty aspirations of the party and the revolutionary Government. We have been rescued now from the grip of the counter-revolution and we thank God for this. Now we can realise and distinguish right from wrong, and friend from foes. It is a matter of great pleasure for us that we have returned to our ancestral land by taking advantage of the general amnesty otherwise we would have been living a miserable life along with the counter-revolutionary groups".

Touching on his visit to Kabul and participation in the meeting of the leaders of the armed groups, he said: "We came to Kabul at the invitation of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front and, during these several days when we have been going around, we have found out that every thing is in proper and normal order."

"Our toiling and Muslim people are busy in their normal daily affairs", he elaborated. "The doors of mosques, temples and shrines are open to all the people. We offer our Friday prayers in the Pulekhishti congregational mosque where more than 20,000 of our Muslim peoples had gathered to pray. We

"noticed clearly that no one was prevented to offer his prayers or perform his religious rituals. Meanwhile, we took part in the sessions of the meetings of the leaders of armed groups and, in these sessions, we expressed our cooperation with our Government and explained to the authorities concerned the problems of our district. We were promised by the party and state authorities to provide all help possible."

CSO: 4600/489

INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE ANNOUNCED

Facilitation of Government-Trader Ties

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 17 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Kabul, 17 Mar (Bakhtar)--Over one hundred private production enterprises are members of the Association of the Private Industries of Afghanistan.

The role of this association in helping the privated entrepreneurs became very evident after the victory of the new evolutionary phase of the Saur Revolution. The association has presented the main problems of the private enterprises to the Economic Consultative Council and the Government has taken useful practical measures for solving their problems.

For example, tax law on consumer goods of domestic production, which was legislated unilaterally in 1353 (1975), was amended to provide for lower taxation.

Earlier, the rates of taxes levied on imports of raw materials for industries were equal to those on the consumer goods and finished products. The taxes on raw materials were withdrawn on the representation of the association to the concerned authorities.

When the private industrial enterprises were facing acute shortage of foreign exchange for clearing their transactions and the opening of letter of credits for the provision of raw materials and tools and equipments necessary to run their enterprises, the association proposed the case to the Government through the appropriate channels.

The Government then obligated the banks to settle 50 per cent of the transactions of the industrial enterprises by clearing their accounts at the official foreign currency rate of the banks.

These were some of the examples through which the association has helped the private sector for the promotion of industry in Afghanistan.

Expansion of Kabul Airport

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 19 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] Kabul, 19 Mar (Bakhtar)--Work on the expansion of the Kabul international airport is to begin on March 21.

According to the plan, the passenger-handling capacity of the existing terminal is to be increased from 100 passengers per hour to 300 per hour.

A new terminal is to be built for domestic flights.

It will have a passenger-handling capacity of 100 passengers per hour.

The present length of the airport's runway is to be extended from 2,800 to 3,500 metres in order to provide for better landing and takeoff facilities for wide-body airplanes like DC-10 and TU-104.

The cost of the extension of the airport is estimated at Afs 950 million, which is to be met by the state development Budget.

The foreign exchange component will be financed from Soviet credits.

The work will be carried out by the Public Works Ministry.

A contract on the work was signed yesterday morning between the Public Works Ministry and the Transport Ministry.

The contract was endorsed, with Power Minister Nazar Mohammad and Transport Minister Shairjan Mazdooryar present, between the presidents of the Kabul Construction Unit and the President of the planning department of the Transport Ministry.

The work will include construction of a restaurant and a kitchen and installation of a central heating system, among other things.

The work will be completed in three years.

Plan to Up Farm, Industrial Output

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 19 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Kabul, 19 Mar (Bakhtar)--The State Plan for Socio-economic Development for the new Afghan year (beginning March 21) envisages a growth of six per cent in the gross domestic production and four per cent in the national income.

This was stated by Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the periodical plenary session of the Council of Ministers here on Thursday.

The session discussed the drafts of the socio-economic development plan and the Budget for the new Afghan year, 1362 H.S. and approved necessary directives regarding the tasks of the ministries.

He added that the basic issue in the sphere of agriculture is to raise the production of foodstuffs and industrial raw materials for light and nutritional industries and export commodities.

The volume of gross agricultural production will amount to Afs 88.2 billion, which indicates an increase of Afs 1.8 billion afghanis over the current year.

Keshtmand noted that 253 projects were envisaged in the plan, of which 181 are carry-over projects, 36 new projects and 36 in the stage of planning.

It is planned that, during the next year, 103 projects will be completed partially or totally, of which 37 will start their operation.

The textile factories of Herat and Kandahar, the Conserve Factory of Jalalabad, the second gas turbine in the Kabul city, three electric installations in Faizabad, Laghman and Paktika, the Mazare Sharif Silo, two stations of technical services in Hairatan and Pulikhumri, Kamaz Transport Enterprise and the first stage of the Kabul water supply can be pointed out as examples, he said.

He observed that favourable grounds exist for the gradual growth of the economy and the consolidation of the financial position of the country. "First of all, we possess sufficient natural resources and fertile land, secondly, the comprehensive cooperation and fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries is a guarantor of our progress and thirdly the working people constitute a great and basic force for the construction of our new society."

He stated that such issues are being studied and discussed on the eve of the convocation of the 11th plenum of the Central Committee of the PDPA which would be devoted to the deliberation of economic issues.

In these drafts, he said, new tasks have been set for achieving the development of the economy of the country, improvement in the planning system in finance and banking in consideration of strengthening the leading role of the PDPA in the economic structure.

Keshtmand explained that, under the prevailing system of mixed economy and in order to off set the unpredictable effects of the law of value, the Government has tried to control the inflation in the market through the supply of primary goods in the market and maintaining prices stable by state subsidies.

At the end of the session, directives to the concerned ministries and offices were approved in connection with the plan and the Budget.

Scientific Planning Underway

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 19 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Kabul, 19 Mar--Following is the text of the opening speech by Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the periodical plenary session of the Council of Ministers on 17 March:

Esteemed comrades,

Today, the Council of Ministers deliberates on the most important issues in the economic sphere of the country, that is, the drafts of the Socio-Economic Development Plan and the State Budget of the DRA. These issues are being studied and discussed on the eve of the convocation of 11th plenum of the Central Committee of the PDPA which would be devoted to the deliberations on economic issues. In these drafts, new tasks have been set for achieving the development of the economy of the country, improvement in the planning systems in finance and banking in consideration of strengthening the leading role of the PDPA in the economic structure.

Comrades,

Prior to the beginning of the study and deliberation about the issues included in the agenda, permit me to briefly refer to the essence of planning under the conditions of a mixed economy. This will help us to assess the drafts of the plan and Budget quantitatively and qualitatively and their realities. As also, it helps us in setting the tasks and their ensuring evolution relating to the State Committee of Planning, Ministry of Finance, other ministries and agencies in the sphere of economic activities of the financial plan.

The necessary legal, financial, organisational and methodological principles were initiated after the Saur Revolution, especially after its new evolutionary phase, for the design and preparation of the socio-economic plans of the DRA. In accord with the Fundamental Principles of the DRA and with the proclamation of nationalisation of the underground wealth and other natural resources, energy resources, banks, insurance, communication and radio-television, the material basis of the leadership of the national economic plan and the state ownership in the projects, state enterprises and in the mixed sector was strengthened.

At the sametime, as it is reiterated in the Fundamental Principles of the DRA, the state of the DRA protects and encourages the sector of national private capital in the sphere of the growth of industries, in the sphere of service, transport and agriculture and guarantees within the provision of the law the security of private investment for economic growth.

The leading feature of the national mixed economy in the country lies in that it makes the plan of duties comprising compulsory directives for the state and mixed organisationr, cooperatives and enterprises. In the case of the private sector, the plan of duties is advisory and forms indirect planning.

Under the prevailing system of mixed economy and in order to offset the unpredictable effects of the Law of Value, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has tried to control the inflation in the market through the supply of primary goods such as flour, bread, sugar, vegetable oil in the market and keeping prices stable in the free market by state subsidies. Thus, it makes the achievement of the socio-economic tasks which the Saur Revolution has entrusted to us possible.

The state of the DRA specifically helps the peasants and peasant cooperatives through the distribution of cultivation seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides at concessional rates. The state provides them with veterinary services free of charge and provide them with agricultural tools and machinery at easy terms.

Other facilities such as the expansion of social and cooperative sectors, the construction of state residential houses, provision of free social services in the sphere of education, public health, higher and vocational education, distribution of coupons for state employees and workers are the factors which bring about positive effects in the life of the people and strengthen the role of the state in the sphere of the growth of the economy of the country on the basis of the scientific economic planning.

In the recent years, we have been successful in making and implementing the socio-economic development plans and the state Budget in a realistic manner despite the difficulties and merous shortages including the limitations of material and financial reserves and the losses and difficulties arising from the undeclared war of reaction and imperialism against our country. Many difficulties existed during the preparation of the state plan and Budget for the year 1362 HS, but the maximum use of the available means has been anticipated.

Now we start our deliberations on the Socio-economic Development Plan and the State Budget of the country for the year 1362 HS.

CSO: 4600/490

CIA, MOSSAD, SAUDIS BLAMED FOR SECTARIAN STRIFE IN PAKISTAN

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Hatif Etesami]

[Text] SINCE the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Western imperialist media have projected the Revolution as an irrelevant product of Shiism. The global propaganda machine of Western journalism was geared to isolate the Islamic Revolution in world public opinion so as to permit U.S. imperialism to launch its overt and covert intrigues against the Islamic Republic.

In addition, the imperialist agents by creating sectarian conflicts have struggled to blunt the public support in Moslem countries for the Islamic Revolution in Iran and by promoting sectarian tensions have tried to undermine the Islamic movement in many Moselm countries.

In the context of the continuing imposed war against Iran, the sectarian conflict in Pakistan may be interpreted as a bid to guarantee Pakistan's neutrality in case of massive U.S. interference in the Persian Gulf region. The imperialist policy makers think that a massive sectarian conflict in Pakistan would not only help create fissure in the ranks of Moslem unity, but will also help alienate the majority of Sunni Pakistani Moslems from the Islamic Revolution of Iran and make them at least indifferent to the fate of the Islamic Republic when challenged by massive U.S. interference in the Persian Gulf region.

The ploy of the CIA, MOSSAD and Saudi intelligence has been to break Moslem unity by creating artificial conflicts such as the recent one in Pakistan. Sectarian conflict serves the dual purpose of the superpowers in that it not only serves to perpetuate dictatorships in Moslem countries, it also helps to postpone the struggle of the Moslem masses for the establishment of a true Islamic state. The enemies of Islam have well realised that they cannot impose their will over an Islamic state as they do in most of the Moslem countries of Africa, Asia and the Far East.

Moreover the covert policy pundits of the U.S. imagine that a sectarian fission in Pakistan will help align the majority of Sunni Moslems with the devilish designs of the U.S. regarding t'e Persian Gulf region and the oil-fields of the Moslem countries of the region. It is only logical that the

Saudi agents who have infiltrated most of the Asian and African Moslem societies should play their sensitive role so crucial for the U.S. and its clients in the Persian Gulf.

If the Sunni and Shiite Moslems of Pakistan don't realise now the extent of this great intrigue and close their ranks to bring about a closer sectarian fusion, they should rest assured that the enemies of Islam will have scored another victory by depriving Moslems of the chance to forward the cause of Islam and help God and Islam at a point in history when the struggling and re-emerging Islam needs it most.

If the Pakistani Moslems don't realise the nature of the plots of the enemies of Islam and Moslems, the enemy will convert them into idle spectators watching Islam being crushed and Moslem countries being occupied by Western powers under the pretext of "helping Moslem states."

The devilish role of the Great Satan and its imp Israel in the Lebanese crisis is an example. While the U.S. and the Zionists arbitrate the destiny of a Moslem country, the neighbouring Arab states have been converted into idle spectators of this colossal shame. It might not take long before the magician-journalist of the Western press will convert the historical crime of the Zionists against the Lebanese and Palestinian Moslems into a messianic expedition. What greater shame and what mightier blow is required for the Moslems to wake up from their sleep? "If you help God, He shall help you", so promises the holy Qoran. But a man in deep sleep cannot help himself or God. Awakening is the first condition for deliverance.

CSO: 4600/484

MONTAZERI SAYS U.S., SAUDI AGENTS WERE BEHIND SHI'A-SUNNI CONFLICT

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

QOM (IRNA) - Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri said here Thursday that Washington has been trying to foment sectarian strife between the Shi'as and Sunnis in Pakistan with a view to creating internal agitation in that country. He said also that the United States seeks to find a firmer foothold in Pakistan by convincing that country that it needs more support from Washington in order to cope with the internal situation in that country.

The Ayatollah who was talking to about 100 Pakistani students studying at the Faiziyeh Theological School here Thursday, noted that the recent efforts of the United States for pitting Moslems against one another had been made in keeping with decisions made in a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization in Taiff, Saudi Arabia last year.

He noted that earlier on, the Islamic Republic had been

a principal target for sectarian agitation but that the United States was baffled in its plots by vigilant and discerning Moslems of Iran.

The Ayatollah also addressed himself to the people in Pakistan and urged them not to fuel the fire of strife between their people or else the situation would only benefit the Great Satan (the United States).

He also urged the people in Pakistan to be suspicious of the operations of a group of imposter ulema who "are attached to Fahd's government" and who are commissioned to attack Shi'a schools, mosques and ulema in that country.

He expressed confidence that the people of Pakistan would long to live with dignity and without relying on the "mercenary agents of the Saudis or on the U.S. (military) bases rather than blemish their Islamic honour."

1: 48 1/4

IRAN

PAKISTANI SUNNI CLERGY CALL FOR PROMOTION OF MUSLIM UNITY

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - While expressing their deep concern for the recent sectarian clashes in Pakistan, high-ranking Sunni Moslem religious leaders called on Monday for the furtherance of unity among Moslems in this country.

Explaining the outcome of a national gathering of Sunni religious leaders on Monday, the head of the Sheikhs Society of Pakistan, Maulana Faruq, told a press conference in Rawalpindi that in order to create better solidarity among the different Moslem sects in Pakistan, the gathering called for the holding of special ceremonies about Imam Hussein (A.S.), in the Moslem year

1404 (begins coming October).

Imam Hussein (A.S.) was the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.) and the third Imam of Shi'a Moslem sect.

Maulana Faruq said that the gathering condemned the savage massacre of Moslems in Lebanon, Afghanistan and Assam and called on world's Moslems to take necessary measures in order to prevent such acts by the enemies of Islam. He also said the gathering considered the recent sectarian clashes in Karachi as a plot drawn by the enemies of Islam in order to root-out Islam from Pakistan.

: 4666/487

ACTIVITIES OF MUSLIM STUDENTS IN U.S., CANADA DISCUSSED

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Mar 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

MOSLEM Students from the Islamic Republic of Iran in the U.S. and Canada have established new standards of commitment, dedication and Islamic awareness. While small in number, they have confronted a host of problems and overcome many difficulties with fortitude and perseverance.

They live very simply. Most of them sleep on the floor and their meals usually consist of eggs and toast with the occasional salad. They pray regularly, and on time, and make it a point to join congregational prayers in the mosques in their locality. Many of them attend at least three or four meetings a week which include session on tafseer, ideology, review of the latest situation in the Islamic Republic and situation of brothers and sisters across the United States.

There are perhaps as many as 50,000 students from Iran studying in various universities throughout the U.S. and Canada. But not all are dedicated and committed to the ideals of Islam and the Islamic Revolution. There is also a large assortment of leftists and munafiqs; many more are just plain indifferent. At the time of the Islamic Revolution there were as many as 120,000 students in the U.S. alone. The vast majority returned to Iran to join the Sepah or the Jihad-e Sazindagi. Others are hoping to return as soon as they complete their studies.

One of the biggest problems confronting these students is attacks by the munafiqeen. At many university campuses gangs of 15 or 20 munafiqs would attack and severely beat up a lone Moslem student. For instance, at Jackson State University in Mississippi, a munafiq group of 15 nearly killed two Moslem students. In retaliation, two Moslem students caught a munafiq a few days later and beat the living daylights out of him. The rest of

the munafiqeen fled the university. Montreal is another place where the munafiqeen congregate in large numbers. Last year, a group of munafiqeen occupied a university lecture hall at Concordia University (in Montreal) where Moslem students were due to hold a meeting. When the munafiqeen refused to leave, Moslem students showed them the way out.

But fighting and warding off munafiqeen is not their only problem: many students have problems with immigration officials, are harassed by the police, particularly in the U.S. and even suffer at the hands of University authorities. Last January a group of U.S. immigration officials and police arrested two students at 7 in the morning in Virginia as they were about to drive into Washington D.C. The police came with guns, lights flashing and blocked off all the surrounding streets in the neighbourhood of the house where the students lived. The scene would have been highly comic were it not for the seriousness of the police's intent. Both students had to spend many hours in police custody until friends could bring their passports for identification. Such incidents are not uncommon.

Last August, police in Dallas, Texas³ had attacked a similar group of students and locked them up in jail. Many students, both men and women, refused to take prison food and went on a hunger strike in protest over their illegal arrests and refusal of the police to allow them halaal food from outside. Many of them were near death after a month of torture and starvation. A group of other Moslem students, mostly Arabic speaking, came forward with cash to provide bail money and get the release of the students.

In their efforts to combat hostile media propaganda against Islam and the Islamic Republic, Moslem students hold regular public meetings, at their own expense, and try to invite Moslems from different backgrounds. Topics for discussion are not confined to the Islamic Revolution though efforts are made to get the true picture across. If the recent Unity Conferences in New York and Carbondale were any measure of their success, they are getting across to a very broad cross section of Moslems, particularly the oppressed in the U.S.

Ironically, Moslem students from Iran have had their greatest opposition from Islamic centres, particularly where Saudi-paid preachers lead prayers. Such centres want to confine their activities to prayers and leave politics out of the

mosques'. The same preachers are quick to issue out fatwas of kufr against Shi'as. In some centres the students are even forbidden to distribute literature. But this is not the case everywhere. In many large cities such as Chicago, Washington D.C. and Houston mosques committees have been pleased to work in conjunction with Moslem students who are known for their commitment, sincerity and compassion. Because of their efforts, a much greater awareness exists among Moslems throughout North America. The migrant as well as indigenous Moslems are coming together through the seminars and programmes organized by these young students. They have heeded Imam Khomeini's call to forge unity among Moslems and rise above narrow differences of Shi'a and Sunni.

(CRESCENT)

000: 4600/483

CLANDESTINE ON BAZARGAN'S CIA SUPPORT

GF050539 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 3 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Compatriots, for some time, Sheykh Mehdi Bazargan, the former prime minister of Khomeyni and his accomplice in thousands of murders and plunder during the era of the interim government, has been active in Tehran in an extraordinary manner and while due to the suffocation and terror ruling the country no one has the slightest right to political activities opposing the regime of the mullahs, he has again spread his bankrupt pack of political tricks. Not only does he publish pamphlets, bulletins or books every other day criticizing Khomeyni's government, he has also written an address and a bank account number in the same publications inviting people to put their donations in Bank Account No 11599 in Bank Melli which is registered under the name of Engineer Tavassoli.

With the unprecedented suffocation created in Iran by the criminal mullahs it is not clear how Sheykh Mehdi Bazargan can act unopposed, brandish slogans against the regime and go to the so-called majlis everyday with his gang and after signing the registration book, go to the library as a sign of his displeasure without being bothered by anyone.

What secret lies between Khomeyni and Bazargan that Khomeyni tolerates Bazargan so and also tolerates his strong and firey opposition and criticism and open letters? If the answer is that Bazargan was one of the professional opposers of the shah, then such an assumption is correct about Qotbzadeh, Nazih, Bani-adr, Rajavi and others too. However, we saw that Khomeyni did not tolerate the presence of any of them in his sphere of power and got rid of each in one way or another. He went as far as to execute Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the companion of Ahmad Khomeyni, alias Ahmad the Tearful, and the spokesman of the trickster Imam in Neauphle-le-Chateau for rising up against the system of the Islamic Republic. He never received the clemency that Mr Bazargan enjoys. From the tone of the open letters of Mehdi Bazargan addressed to the speaker of the so-called majlis and also to the pretender Imam, it can be concluded that under this immense mountain of innocence there is a hidden fire and that Sheykh Bazargan has not taken any undue risk.

A good look at the leftist opposition papers abroad shows indications of a united and allout support for Mehdi Bazargan. They are trying to portray this bankrupt politician as a nationalist freedom-seeker and an innocent individual who has suffered a lifetime for freedom. The tone of Western and American radio and television services on Bazargan has also changed and he is constantly referred to as the only same premier of Khomeyni. The press of the same countries call him a free-thinking intellectual who has become surrounded by reactionary and ignorant mullahs. A while ago the WASHINGTON TIMES called him the sole hope of Iran's future and the only individual who can mobilize Tehran's bazaar and university against Khomeyni and also enjoy the support of the noble and true Iranian clergymen. The same American paper has written: Even though Bazargan lost his popularity due to weakness during his reign and also due to excessive religious zeal, his innocence and his noble struggle and his resistance to the oppression of the extremist mullahs has again made him popular.

The hand of colonialism truly creates miracles in the third world countries. Look at what miracles these clandestine hands perform and how they are gradually making a dishonored and defeated politician into a nationalist and concerned figure. One of our correspondents in the United States accidentally discovered that a report about a recent trip to the United States by Ebrahim Yazdi and his return to Iran was true. Our correspondent has confirmed that this bearded politician who is both a U.S. and an Iranian citizen has travelled to the United States several times so far and has had special discussions with a number of influential circles in that country. We can, therefore, easily conclude that such secret trips by Ebrahim Yazdi are directly tied to the renewed activities of Mehdi Bazargan, this sheykh who is protected by the U.S. espionage organization, the CIA, and again the demented and somewhat dumb planners of Washington's foreign policy have decided to resurrect this politically dead horse.

We know that Khomeyni's regime considers any ties with foreigners treachery and opposition to the Islamic revolution and has so far executed dozens of innocent people who have been accused of having ties with the arch-Satan, the world-devourer United States. However, the officials of the same regime have turned a blind eye to the open contacts of Mr Engineer Mehdi Bazargan and Mr Doctor Ebrahim Yazdi with Ramsey Clark, General Huyzer and Olaf Palme and have left them alone. We should not assume that the mullahs and Khomeyni himself are unaware of the close ties Bazargan has with the Americans. Khomeyni and his mullahs are well aware of the history of Bazargan's contacts with foreigners. However, they are unable to do anything. Bazargan is protected by the same source that made an illiterate, blood-thirsty and crazy mullah into the Imam of the nation and forced him on a civilized, religious, cultured and tranquil nation. Mr Ruhollah Khomeyni knows that the end of his mission is nearing as is the end of his shameful life. Therefore, he is unable to disobey the orders of the architects of the era of great fear in Iran. They have put in a word for Bazargan. Sheykh Mehdi Bazargan is the puppet of the same architects. It is they who are keeping fire and water side by side and are keeping the Bazargans and Yazdis safe from Khalkhalis and Chaffaris. However, can they keep them safe from the fire of the revenge of the Iranian nation? The future will show!

IRAN

NVOI URGES IRAN TO END GULF WAR

TA041136 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 2 Apr 83

[Unattributed, untitled commentary]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The imposed war of attrition whose fire has undoubtedly been kindled by U.S. imperialism rightly poses the logical question by the people as to whether this war and its prolongation do not pave the way for the plots by the revolution's overt and covert enemies and for the creation of the unpleasant current situation in which the lofty goals of the Iranian revolution are being consigned to oblivion.

It is an undeniable fact that the imposed war, which is in its 3d year, has inflicted extremely heavy human and material losses both on the Iranian Government and the Iraqi nation. According to statistics the losses in life inflicted on both sides exceed 100,000, and according to Iranian officials the war's material damages to Iran alone have surpassed \$100 billion. This war of attrition is costing the Iranian nation \$15-20 million every day. On the other hand, hundreds of thousands of our homeland's youth who should have engaged in constructive activity for the prosperity of our economy and homeland are now in the war's front and are being killed, wounded and maimed. Undoubtedly all these developments have an important role in preventing the revolution's stabilization, consolidation and expansion. It is by exploiting this miserable and unpleasant situation and the problems arising from the war that rightist forces affiliated with major capitalism and large land-ownership have succeeded in exposing the revolution to the current crisis.

These forces, under the pretext that Iran is in a state of war with Iraq, have prevented fulfillment of the revolution's aspirations, of achievement of the constitution's principles and of implementation of fundamental and revolutionary reforms in the interest of the oppressed and the million-strong masses of town and village toilers. By this means they are making the people despondent toward the revolution and the Islamic Government and inducing them to turn their backs on the Islamic Government in order to implement America's evil and Satanic plan.

Thus, in the present conditions the continuation of this war is only to the benefit of imperialism headed by world-devouring America, to the benefit of the domestic foes of the Iranian revolution and to the detriment of the Iranian

nation, the Islamic Government and our homeland's popular and anti-imperialist revolution, and to the detriment of the Iraqi nation.

One should also accept the fact, however bitter it may be, that the continuation of this war aids in consolidating the positions of the imperialists and the Zionists throughout the entire region, and it is not without reason that both America and Israel are striving by every means so that the fire of war between the two Muslim and fraternal nations of Iran and Iraq be kindled and prolonged as much as possible.

In the international arena as well, all peace-loving governments and all world assemblies, both Islamic and non-Islamic, have demanded and continue to demand that the conflagration of war between Iran and Iraq be extinguished. Sound logic dictates that one should turn his thoughts toward this end.

Without doubt the war's prolongation undermines both Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this is precisely what world-devouring America wishes. The overthrow of the current Islamic Republic regime in Iran and the installment of a regime dependent on America is America's basic plan regarding emancipated and revolutionary Iran. Rightist forces, the superficiaals, the monopolists and the ignorant friends of the revolution as well, by unbridled and in fact subversive activities, prevent any reform and revolutionary measure in the interest of society's deprived, and assist in implementing America's Satanic plan.

Facts indicate that the war's continuation undermines the Islamic Republic of Iran, and consequently this will entail further losses, both human or material, for our homeland. Therefore one should think of ending the war and of seeking agreeable solutions. Ending the war will also be effective in neutralizing the Satanic plans of U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism in the region and in Iran. In short, terminating the war is in the interest of the Iranian revolution and to the benefit of expanding the anti-imperialist movement in the entire region.

CSO: 4640/163

NVOI COMPARES PERSECUTION UNDER SHAH, TODAY

TA292021 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The Same Bill of Indictment in Two Different Historical Stages"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: A brief review and study of history is always necessary and instructive for everyone, particularly for those who are in positions of power. About 34 years ago the loud, strong and reassuring voice of a combatant echoed in the courts of the regime of the annihilated shah. The echo of the just and eloquent statements of this revolutionary patriot can still be heard, and it is appropriate that we repeat them.

Addressing the judges of a court that in accordance with the order of the annihilated shah had the duty of convicting a group of the best children of our homeland, he said the following: Gentlemen judges, our guilt is that we have measured our lives by the scale of the Iranian nation's interests. Our guilt is that we have sacrificed everything for the Iranian nation's freedom, independence and honor. Our guilt is that we did not adopt a different color every day. Our guilt is that we have always stated the truth. We have been steadfast, we did not show weakness and did not surrender to the foes of the nation. These were our unforgivable offenses, and it is for these same offenses that they have put us in prison among thieves and murderers. It is for these very reasons that they are trying us. It is for these same reasons that they have issued the orders for our conviction.

This was part of the defense plea by Comrade Nureddin Kianuri, first secretary of the Iranian Tudeh Party, in 1949, that is about 34 years ago in the court of the annihilated Mohammad Reza. Some 33 years later Comrade Nureddin Kianuri, analyzing our homeland's situation following the revolution and referring to the plots and ploys by the ultrarightists, the U.S. elements and the superficials, wrote the following in an open letter addressed to the government figures of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Our guilt is that for a long time we have rightly recognized the path of the Iranian revolution. Our guilt is that we have correctly recognized the friends and foes of the revolution both within the homeland and on the international scene, and are clearly and consistently sticking to the positions in which we sincerely believe. Our guilt is that we have appropriately exposed the nature of the liberals, the Amir-Entezams, the Bani-Sadrs, the Qotbzadehs, the Bazargans, the Yazdis, the

Sabbagnaians, the Qassemis and the San-abis as the hope and supporters of U.S. imperialism. Our guilt is that since 1974, without fearing the consequences, we have introduced to the Iranian people the Shari'at-Madaris as a counterrevolutionary force, and supported the combatant clergy and the struggling Muslim followers of the Imam Khomeyni's line. Our guilt is that we recognized the main source of all treacherous and counterrevolutionary developments, which is the very plundering system of major capitalism and large landownership dependent on imperialism, and bared its bloodsucking nature. These are our so-called heavy and unforgivable offenses.

As you are observing, the so-called offense of those who have struggled for a lifetime on the path of freedom, independence and social justice and for liberating our homeland's million-strong and deprived masses, and who have never retreated a single step from their popular and anti-imperialist positions under any circumstances but rather have stood up staunchly like a rock, is completely identical in two different stages of the liberation struggles of our nation. The interesting thing is that in both stages the claimants against these selfless combatants and noble strugglers on the path of truth, freedom and social justice are the representatives and supporters of a specific stratum and class, that is, the very major capitalists and landlords--these social parasites, these economic terrorists and these reliable bases of imperialism and neocolonialism, headed by America. The only difference here is that in 1949 the supporters of this plundering and bloodsucking stratum were the shah's regime, the corrupt Pahlavi court and the annihilated shah himself, namely, that major plunderer and terrorist, but today the ultra-rightists, the pseudoclergy and pseudosources of imitation have assumed that inauspicious role.

In those days too, the Pahlavi court, under the pretext of defense of sanctity of ownership and the legality of ownership, hold in chains the best children of this land, and imprisoned and arrested them on so-called charges of espionage and similar pretexts, or handed them over to the firing squad. Now, too, the pseudoclergy and the pseudosources of imitation are implementing that same disagreeable policy under the mask of Islam. But history and time have shown that those who convicted the best children of our nation under the charge of espionage, were themselves the puppets and spies of foreigners to the marrow of their bones.

In those days organizations dependent on British colonialism and U.S. neo-colonialism, under the protection of the court and police of the shah's despotic regime, used to attack the true revolutionary forces. Now also, CIA-fabricated and Mosad-fabricated organizations such as the Mojhatiye have entered the arena under the cloak and robe with which the CIA and Mosad have clothed their leaders and activists. In short, the essence of the so-called bills of indictment in both stages is the same; that is, the issue is over the struggle between labor and capital, between liberty and captivity, between inquisition and freedom of conscience, between the exploitation and arrogance of a prosperous stratum on the one hand, and the million-strong masses and the true revolutionary forces on the other.

In this destiny-making struggle, the past and present of combatants on the path of independence, freedom and social justice--these brilliant figures of the history of our nation's liberation struggles who have currently been imprisoned as a result of the plots of the ultrarightists, the superficials and the pseudosources of imitation--is bright and a source of pride. The people, addressing the rightists and the Hojjatis who are implementors of the CIA's and Mosad's plan, are rightly saying: What kind of people are you who have fastened the rock and unleashed the dog?

CSO: 4640/163

TURKISH MAGAZINE COMMENTS ON IRAN-IRAQ 'PROLONGED WAR'

Istanbul MIDDLE EAST REVIEW in English Feb 83 p 26

[Text]

The Iran - Iraq war still drags on, each side causing damage to the other. When the hostilities flare up once in a while, the escalation threatens the entire region, not only the antagonists themselves.

The *casus belli* given by Iran and Iraq when the war commenced are now largely obsolete, replaced by new justifications on either side. The war has reached the point where both Iran and Iraq fear that any move towards peace will be interpreted as a sign of weakness. No viable way out of the situation will be found for a long time yet. This pessimistic prediction is based first of all on the fact that being oil-rich, both countries can afford their war. However, neither side has so far been rewarded with any tangible returns for the cost of the war. None of their declared political goals have been fully achieved. Moreover, the lobster trap situation in which both are caught is to the advantage of those in power in Teheran and Baghdad. The threat posed by the enemy abroad has legitimised certain activities in domestic politics. Revolution is an element in the fundamental ideology of the political systems of both nations. The idea that this is a "holy war against an enemy who is a tool of the imperialists" plays an important political role in both Iran and Iraq. For these reasons the decision makers of Teheran and Baghdad are motivated to keeping the war going.

It must not be forgotten that similar motives are, and have been, behind violence in other regions of the world.

A further factor behind the continuation of the war is the ideologies of the regimes. As I said before, both regimes came to power under the re-

volutionary banner. The concept of "revolution" entails aggression, not reconciliation. When to this thought structure we add the concept of "manhood" which characterises Mid-east culture, there is little hope for an early resolution of the war, that does not involve clearcut victory or defeat.

This war also has a human side. Both antagonists frequently attack civilian targets. Thousands of people are being killed, wounded, or wasting their energy on and behind the front.

Undoubtedly the Iranian and Iraqi people, who are bearing the brunt of the war, are dissatisfied with the way the war is going, yet neither peoples are in a position to force their rulers to reach a compromise. This failure to pressurise is due to both political and cultural factors.

Oriental culture lacks the concept of human rights. This is not meant as criticism. Eastern cultures attach great importance to people and the provision of a life of honour. But this life of honour is important only because it is the consequence of another, higher aim. The greatest contribution of western liberalism, as an ideology, to world thought, is the idea that a man has incontrovertible rights merely because he is a man. The lack of this concept in eastern culture lays a firm foundation for solidarist political systems larded with revolutionary rhetoric. These political systems consolidate the existent thought structure. Together the political and cultural factors are those most to blame for the continuation of the war. All those who call for an end to the suffering of war will be accused of enmity to the society, and an end to the war will continue to depend on a clearcut victory or defeat. ●

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES ROLE OF ISLAM

LD291951 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Several members of the Islamic societies of various government departments in Qom met this morning with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

Discussing the role of revolutionary organizations in restoring Islam and religion to society and the lives of the people and in neutralizing the attempts of imperialism during the past century to eliminate Islam in our society, the prime minister emphasized: Today, when the line of the Imam has dominated all national organizations, and in keeping with the progress of the revolution and the consolidation of various organizations, it is natural that each organization should return to its own duties. It is under such conditions that each organization will complement other organizations and that the revolution will be safeguarded. The role and duties of Islamic societies thus are quite clear in government departments and in factories.

Later in his speech, referring to the fact that the conspiracies of big powers will not be limited to terrorism or to the imposed war and that in the long term they want to adopt a method so that the political trend of the Islamic system will move in the direction of their goals, the prime minister said: The Islamic societies can act as eyes and ears of the system in this respect. He added: What happened in Afghanistan and prepared the way for the presence of the Red Army in that country or the presence of Western countries and ultimately America in our country after the constitutional revolution are good lessons to us all.

Finally, Musavi talked about the administration of the country and the responsibilities of the executive toward the illustrious position of the leader, the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and public opinion. He said: The weakening of executive power will lead to confusion and will slacken growth. Of course, this does not mean that Islamic societies should be indifferent toward wrongdoings. On the contrary, they should find ways to inform the decision-making organs of their views. They should feel confident that the system will solve the problems.

CSO: 4640/161

KHAMENE'I REMARKS ON BROADCASTING ORGANIZATION

LD311408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The central news unit reports that the participants in the nationwide seminar of the directors and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran's voice and vision centers, along with the director general and several members of the organization's supervisory council, last night, on the last day of their seminar, met and held talks with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at the Shrine of Imam Riza. [In Mashhad]

At this meeting the president alluded to the crucial role of the voice and vision organization and said that if that organization was unable to make the views of various strata of the country become identical or if it operated in an indifferent way towards the stance adopted by the enemy, every effort in every other respect would also certainly fail. Noting that all the efforts made by the revolution together were as important as the role of the radio and television by itself, the president said: In the light of the importance of the matter we should strive to ensure that all the programs are directed toward enhancing the people's perspectives and knowledge.

In conclusion, the president said: You should set up an apparatus of control and establish standards and criteria so that programs are not broadcast on the basis of individuals' tastes.

CSO: 4640/161

MUSAVI-KHAMENE'I RETURNS TO TEHRAN 1 APRIL

GF031044 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 2 Apr 83

[Text] Tabriz, 2 Apr (IRNA)--Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i returned to the capital, Tehran, Friday, after a two-day tour of East Azarbayjan Province.

During his tour of the area, he met with various religious and political personalities in the province, including Friday prayers leader of Tabriz who is also representative of Imam Khomeyni in the province, Ayatollah Malakuti. The prime minister also paid visits to the Mughan region near the border with the Soviet Union, as well as Ardebil, some 216 kms east of here.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Musavi-Khamene'i addressed the people here before the sermons of Ayatollah Malakuti in the Friday prayers ceremony.

He said after the victory of the Islamic revolution in February 1979, the superpowers had placed much hope on Azarbayjan and carried out many conspiracies and plans in the region aimed at defeating the revolution. However, he added, "You people unitedly poured into the streets and silenced their conspiracies from the very beginning."

Speaking about the achievements of the Islamic Republic on its fourth anniversary, Musavi-Khamene'i said, "The Islamic Republic proved the fallacy of the theory of colonialism that no small country could stand on its feet without dependence on the superpower of the East or West. It showed the world that when a nation is determined it can stand...even if all the superpowers unite against that nation...."

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran had created hope in the hearts of one billion Muslims and made them conscious of the crimes and colonialist policies of the superpowers.

CSO: 4640/161

DAILY ELABORATES ON 'BAGHDAD-TEL AVIV AXIS' PLOTS

Ba'athist Support for Israel Cited

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 Mar 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] With the explicit declaration of Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Foreign Minister regarding the Ba'athist regime's readiness to hold direct negotiations with Israel, the true Zionist face of the Baghdad regime was revealed to the world.

The deep rooted and close relations between the Ba'athist regime of Iraq and the Zionist Israelis is no new phenomenon. It dates back to 1944 when Michael Aflaq established the Ba'athist party. Since then, Zionist-Ba'athist relations have continued secretly. However, it showed its ugly face during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and also, during subsequent Israeli-Palestinian armed encounters.

During the six day war in June 1967, the Iraqi forces under the command of Ba'athist generals did not fire even one bullet on the Zionist forces, but only served to weaken the Syrian front.

During the Black September massacre in 1970, despite pretended antagonism between Baghdad and Jordan, and despite Saddam's outward support of the Palestinians, Iraq sat a silent spectator to the Black September genocide.

In 1975, when the Ba'athist regime of Iraq actively collaborated with the Arab Liberation Front in the bloody suppression of Muslims in East Beirut, it indirectly helped the Christians and Zionists in their bloody rampage against the defenseless Palestinians.

In 1977 when the defunct Sadat visited Israel and held negotiations with Zionist officials, Saddam raised a hue and cry against the pro-U.S. Sadat regime and asked for an Arab boycott of Egypt.

During a conference of Arab heads of state in Baghdad for reviewing Sadat's crimes, Saddam severely attacked Sadat and severed Baghdad's relations with Egypt dubbing the Camp David Accord as an outright sellout of the Arab cause. Saddam said that the only way to Palestine's liberation was through armed

struggle. Saddam always pretended to strongly favor the establishment of an Arab resistance front against Israel, however, when it took concrete shape, he was not even prepared to participate in its meetings.

Saddam has always shyed away from any decisive policy versus Israel. And despite the fact that all other Arab countries severed their relations with Egypt, he maintained secret ties. In 1978, the government controlled Iraqi news media began using the name "Israel" instead of "occupied Arab territories."

Iraq's aggressing against the Islamic Republic of Iran, a prelude to Israel's aggression on Lebanon, was actually in line with the interests of Zionism and global imperialism. The Ba'athist regime's close collaboration with Israel in the bombing of Iraq's only atomic reactor, had twofold aims: to effect economic destruction and to project a false image of Israeli antagonism against Iraq.

Last year, when the Islamic forces struck their devastating blows on the heathen forces of Iraq, suddenly there were reports of negotiations between Saddam and Stephen Solres (member of U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee) regarding the preservation of the Ba'athist regime. This was dubbed by Radio Israel as an open victory.

During his negotiations with Solres, Saddam said: "The Arabs should not think of Israel's annihilation, but they should guarantee its security."

Politically, the Ba'athist regime of Iraq openly defended Israel on international forums. On February 17, 1983 when the Human Rights Commission held a meeting to condemn Israeli crimes in Sabra and Shatila, Iraq and Jordon opposed it.

Thus, there is clear indication of the Zionist tendency of the Ba'athist regime of Iraq that has run parallel to the interests of Israel, U.S. and the USSR.

However, with the devastating blows of the Islamic forces upon the sick body of imperialism, Saddam will never get the chance to carry out the evil and satanic designs of his overlords.

'Iraqi-Zionist' Operations Reviewed

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 Mar 83 p 3

[Text]

LONDON (IRNA) — At noon on Wednesday, October 21, 1981, a small muscular Arab arrived at Kuwait International Airport by road from Baghdad and boarded a flight for London. at Heathrow seven hours later, he walked unnoticed through passport control and quickly made his way into town.

The special branch officers who routinely watch arrivals from the Middle East had no inkling of the trouble that this particular passenger was going to bring.

The first time that police were to hear of him was just over seven months later. On the night of June 3 last year at approximately 11:40.

At ten o'clock Israel's ambassador to Britain lay fighting for his life after having been shot through the head at close range.

The Middle East was only hours away from a new and bloody war as the "Israeli" cabinet in Jerusalem approved plans for a massive retaliatory strike against bases of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon. In the next four months some 20,000 people were to die.

The name of the passenger from Baghdad was Nawaf Al-Rosan.

Five weeks later, at the Old Bailey Courthouse, Justice Mars-Jones sentenced him to 35 years imprisonment for his part in attempting to murder the "Israeli" envoy, Shlomo Argov, outside the Dorchester Hotel on Park Lane. Also sentenced to 30 years were Ghassan Said, the man who actually shot the ambassador, and Marwan Al-Banna, who drove the getaway car.

During the five-week trial, the court heard in detail what the three did on the night of June 3, how Said fired a Polish-made WZ63 machine pistol at Argov in his car; how the fleeing gunman was shot in turn by the ambassador's bodyguard and how Rosan and Al-Banna drove south from Park Lane, collected documents from Said's room, and were stopped in Brixton by two policemen in a patrol car.

But the evidence amassed by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad could not explain why a single shot in a London street was to change the face of the Middle East.

The crucial missing fact is that Nawaf Rosan, the organizer of the hit squad, holds the rank of colonel in the Iraqi intelligence service, the Mukhabarat.

By early last summer, the Iraqis were looking for a way out of their debilitating war with Iran. There had been serious military reverses at the front and the country's oil exports had stopped. Dissident Kurds, Shias and Communists were forging a new alliance against Baghdad, and the rival Ba'athists in Damascus were doing their best to subvert the regime of President Saddam Hussein.

An "Israeli" invasion of Lebanon would provide Iraq with an honorable excuse to stop the Persian Gulf war. An appeal could be made to the higher pan-Arab interest of repelling the Zionists, while the Syrians, still entangled in Lebanon would be forced to turn their attention to confronting the "Israelis". If this was the calculation made in Baghdad, the fate of the Palestinians did not enter into it.

Although it had long been clear that the "Israelis" were ready and waiting to attack in Lebanon, the previous summer's American-engineered ceasefire between the Zionist state and the PLO was still holding. The guerrilla organization, making progress on the diplomatic front saw no reason to be drawn into an unequal confrontation.

But the Park Lane shooting provided the spark. The first "Israeli" attacks came on June 4 only hours after the ambassador was shot. Jerusalem cited "constant terrorist provocation" as its justification and mentioned incidents in "Israel", Europe and London. On June 6 operation "Peace for Galilee" began.

Three days later a hand written statement delivered to Reuters in Beirut claimed responsibility for the Argov shooting in the name of a group known as Al-Asifa. The PLO strenuously denied any involvement.

Al-Asifa (the "storm") has headquarters in Baghdad.

As well as being a senior Iraqi intelligence agent, Nawaf Al-Rosan is second in command of the Special Operations section of the Abu Nidal group. His cover as a businessman was seen through immediately.

He had been with Abu Nidal's special operations since 1975 according to intelligence sources. He however answers to the Palestine Department of the Iraqi Directorate General of Intelligence and his family in Irbid still receive regular payments from Baghdad.

Al-Rosan's specific function, according to Arab sources, is as one of the Mukhabarat's men in the group, approving and planning operations on behalf of the regime.

Police still do not know for certain who supplied the five guns and four hand grenades used by the team. But they have some clues. Al-Rosan, according to Arab sources, was in regular contact with the office of the Iraqi military attache next door to the embassy in Queens Gate, South Kensington. The staff there was always keen to help him.

The embassy has its own arsenal in the basement and is thought to have supplied the same kind of Polish-made machine pistol used by Said — the standard issue for Iraqi tank commanders — to the terrorist who besieged the nearby Iranian Embassy in 1980.

An unidentified fourth man, believed to have given the weapons to Al-Banna or Al-Rosan, may well have been one of the embassy's many diplomats working for the Mukhabarat under the title of "attache". The Iraqis have more such officials than any other embassy in London, including that of the Soviet Union.

The Iraqis were very quick to press home what they clearly said was an advantage of June 10, when the "Israelis" were already beginning to encircle Beirut. The Baghdad government suddenly announced what amounted to a unilateral ceasefire in its 21-month-old war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and said it was prepared to withdraw all its forces from Iranian territory within two weeks.

A statement by the Revolutionary Command Council in Baghdad said that one reason for the offer was "its belief in the urgent necessity of directing all energies and effort towards confronting the ferocious Zionist aggression against the Arab World and Palestinian people and Lebanon."

The Iranians were not impressed. The invasion of Lebanon, the country's national news agency (IRNA) declared, was a "vicious plot of the reactionaries in the region" to rescue President Saddam Hussein and his "Ba'athist-Zionist government". The "Israeli" attack "was designed only to revive Baghdad's tottering dictatorship."

The only Arab country benefiting from "Israeli" invasion western diplomats there commented, was Iraq.

On Saturday June 5, in the Security Unit at Paddington Green police station, detective Sergeant Micheal Howell's of the anti-terrorist squad was interrogating Al-Rosan about the Arab-"Israeli" conflict.

It is clear that the consequences of the attack on Shlomo Argov must have been apparent to Abu Nidal and his Iraqi masters. The answer to Sergeant Howell's question can be found only in Baghdad.

OFFICIAL DENIES REPORT ON MISSILE DELIVERY TO SOVIETS

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] TEHRAN, (IRNA)--Head of the War Information Headquarters Kamal Kharrazi yesterday categorically denied biased propaganda of imperialistic mass media to the effect that the Islamic Republic of Iran had put some of the armaments seized from the Iraqi forces, at the disposal of Soviet experts for study.

He stressed that since false propaganda of imperialism alleging purchase of arms by the Islamic Republic from the Zionist regime was revealed, Western press resorted to other tricks to divert world public opinion and distort outstanding achievements of the Islamic combatants by attributing them to Eastern and Western assistance.

To this end, Kharrazi added, imperialist mass media have alleged that the Islamic Republic has delivered a number of 'Exocet' missile carriers and five of their missiles, to the Soviet experts who have taken them to the Soviet Union and not delivered back to Iran.

He noted that the Islamic combatants were more qualified than any one else to use armaments seized in the war against the enemy and that at present most of the arms, especially those in the possession of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, were seized from the Baathist enemy.

Furthermore, Kharrazi emphasised, huge assistance by the Soviet Union to the Baghdad regime such as the dispatch of sophisticated arms including T-72 tanks and MiG-275 was crystal clear to all. This is at the time when the Islamic Republic has no arms dealings with Superpowers, the Soviet Union as well, the War Information Hq head said.

Refuting such allegations, Kharrazi stressed that the Islamic Republic has not put booties seized from the Iraqi enemy at the disposal of any country and will not do so.

CSO: 4600/485

TUDEH PARTY ISSUES ANNOUNCEMENT ON LEADERS' ARREST

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 6 Mar 83 pp 2-3

[Text] After a long silence, an announcement was issued, in the name of the Tudeh Party of Iran (TPI) Central Committee, last week on the arrest of a group of the Party leaders. In the announcement, the arrested Party leaders have been mentioned in the following words: "Comrade Kianouri, one of the great men of Iran's contemporary history who has over 40 years of record of struggle in defending Iran's national independence and rights of the toiling masses; and comrades Hajari, Amou'ie, Shaltouki, Bagherzadeh and Keymanesh, each one of whom has spent 25 years in jail for the anti-Shah struggle."

In the announcement, the reason for the arrest of the TPI leaders has been described as the result of domination of the rightist leaning, in the ruling regime, over the progressive current. This leaning is the defender of the interests of big capitalists, and big owners of arable lands and urban real estates. In the opinion of the TPI, all the anti-Islamic Republic forces, from the Hojatiyeh to the Savakis and liberals, have got around the axis of the Bazaar in the line.

According to the words of the announcement, the above leaning is opposed to the TPI due to this reason that "the TPI, in order to bring about a basic social upheaval, has an explicit scientific program, and it has, since long, emphasised that the destiny of the Revolution hinges on resolving the social problems. The TPI has explicit and implementable programs and plans, already brought to the information of the general public, on the grant of land to farmers, on a speedy hike in farm output, on industrialising the country and maintaining its economic independence, on the revolutionary labour law and realisation of the rights of the working class and other toiling masses, on the nationalisation of foreign trade, on provision of housing units to the deprived urban and rural masses, on the expansion of the cooperatives and equitable domestic distribution, on providing freedom to the press and revolutionary parties, on implementing a national, independent and revolutionary foreign policy, and to sum it up, on promotion of the Revolution and resolving its problems."

In the opinion of the TPI, the object of the opponents in accusing the party leaders and in arresting them is: 1-To create discord and dissension

among the revolutionary forces, 2-To stop the reforms program that benefits the deprived classes, 3-To discredit the TPI, and 4-To strain Iran's ties with socialist states, especially USSR.

It has been said in the announcement that the rumour about a change in the TPI strategy against the Government and the Revolution, following the arrest of its leaders, is totally baseless. "The TPI strategy, contrary to the enemies of the Revolution, is not opportunistic. Rather, it is steadfast and sustained, and would continue until the final victory of the Revolution."

In the conclusion of the announcement, the arrest of the First Secretary and Members of the Party's Politbureau has been objected to, and the charges, levelled against them, have been totally rejected.

Unofficial reports say that contrary to the early rumours, Ehsan Tabari, the No. 2 man in the Tudeh Party, hasn't been arrested, and he is lying in bed due to illness. Dr. Hossein Joudat, the No. 3 man, too is free. The above announcement has been issued, after seeking the opinion of the free members of the Central Committee, by A. Mizani, Member of the Politbureau and the First Deputy to Kianouri. The said individual is among the prominent writers of the TPI and brings out his words under the pen name of "Javanshir." Earlier, it was rumoured that he is among those arrested.

CSO: 4600/471

AFGHAN REFUGEE ISSUE BECOMES COMPLICATED

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 6 Mar 83 pp 3-4

[Text] It appears that after long hesitation, the Government has admitted that the Afghan refugees are gradually becoming a complicated problem for it, and that it must speedily prepare itself to confront the same. During four years since the Revolution, it is for the first time ever that the Government is seriously approaching this issue. In the past, despite insistence by some international agencies, the TPI hadn't agreed to bring up the refugees issue before them or seek help in this connection from the United Nations.

Abbas Akhundi, Political Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry, last week announced that identity cards would be issued to the Afghan refugees with effect from March 12. The Afghans, whose number and place of residence are not known to the Government, are presently spread all over the country. The Interior Ministry is hopeful that they would report themselves to various governorates and receive their identity cards. Such individuals, who are devoid of identity cards, are to be denied jobs in future.

The Government apparently intends to apply greater toughness in future in matters related to the Afghan nationals. Akhundi said: "Henceforth, the travel of Afghans to and from the frontiers would be thoroughly controlled. After their arrival, these individuals would be stationed in specific camps and identified accordingly. There-after, following the assessment of their competence, they would be issued identity cards. Otherwise, they would be expelled from the country" (Ettela'at, March 1).

The Government makes the promise that it would, following the issuance of identity cards, provide facilities to the Afghan refugees for work, residence and marriage and even allow them to remit 50 percent of their earnings abroad in the form of foreign exchange.

With regard to the political activities of the Afghans in Iran, the Interior Ministry Under-secretary said: "The activities of such parties which might not be associated with the East or West Bloc and observe the regulations of the IRI, would be free" (Same source).

It must be noted that solution of the problem of Afghan refugees is not so easy as it appears because initially, most of these refugees are illiterate, and it would take months before they get informed about the Interior Ministry announcement concerning their registration and acquiring of identity cards. Further, it is not known what percentage of them could be really inclined to legalise their stay in Iran because a considerable number of these refugees are engaged in unlawful professions such as smuggling, theft and unauthorised work.

Control of the frontiers by the Government and stationing of refugees in special camps too are not easy tasks because the long-stretching frontiers of Iran with Pakistan and Afghanistan have never been fully controllable even during the times of the Shah. As a result of the negotiations already held with the Pakistani officials, there might be adopted some new measures on controlling the frontiers in future.

The Government's concern, apart from the spread of smuggling and corruption through these refugees, is over the political influence of some of the domestic and foreign elements upon them that can create many problems for the Government in future.

In the Seminar which was held last week to discuss the above issue, the Interior Minister expressed the hope that a suitable political solution could be found to this problem (Kayhan, March 2).

CSO: 4600/471

FIGURES ON ECONOMIC GAINS SINCE REVOLUTION PUBLISHED

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 29 Feb 83 pp 9-13

[Text] The figures mentioned in Table 1 below depict many realities in the sense that the added value in agricultural and services sectors, contrary to the industrial and oil sectors, enjoyed a positive pace of progress during the two years after the revolution. This precisely means that in rural areas, the farmers have devoted their attention to increased output, but unfortunately, servicing tasks didn't show much expansion in urban regions. In the oil and industrial sectors, the added value had a steep decline, the reasons for which are also evident. It must be pointed out that the stormy period of 2 years just after the revolution, when new problems cropped up every day for this tyrannised nation, is in no way an adequate criterion for judgement. Of course, passage of some years is essential to enable us to make a just and realistic judgement. The Islamic society of Iran has managed to preserve independence and freedom under tough conditions, and it is no less than a miracle. During these 4 years, our society has been involved, for over 2 years of it, in an expensive war. Besides that, neutralisation of armed anti-revolutionary and domestic moves, confrontation with political pressures from abroad, etc have taken away a bulk of the country's resources. But the Islamic and divine movement of these people continues to grow miraculously in terms of zeal and excitement. In fact, key to all this victory and resistance must be sought in the greatest blessing of Allah to this nation and which is the unity under the leadership of "Veleyat-e-Faghih" (Religious Leadership).

These realities, however, don't prevent the fact that (for instance), the cancerous growth of the services sector in major cities, which is a non-productive and intermediary sector, could be ignored, and we couldn't be concerned over its constant growth. Basically the unusual growth of services sectors is a colonialist phenomenon since, without providing for the essential productive groundwork in the society, it is indicative of the existence of a non-self-sufficient consumerist society. If, alongside this sinister phenomenon, we also consider the high amount of cash in the society, i.e. the potential purchasing power, we must then either surrender ourselves to burdensome inflation or, as in the past regime, make way, sooner or later, to an 'open-door policy,' and become importers of greater amount of consumer goods. In the light of the special circumstances that govern our economy, and under the conditions when the production, due to various and generally

Table 1 - (Figures in Billion Rials - 1974 = 100)

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Added value of Agricultural Sector (in current price)	271	286.5	303.3	323.9	426.3	485	543.2	767.5	1054.2
Added value of Agricultural Sector (in constant price)	201.8	234.4	303.3	324	341.7	329	332.4	356.4	356.6
Added value of Industrial Sector (in current price)	323.4	387.7	436.8	417.8	887.2	1170.7	940.7	957.6	1065.5
Added value of Industrial Sector (in constant price)	247.2	332.4	434.8	532.5	630.4	684.3	501.8	455.4	404.6
Added value of Oil Sector (in current price)	1233.3	1450.6	1441.6	1375.8	1678.1	1658	1225.5	1676	836.8
Added value of Oil Sector (in constant price)	264	587.5	1441.6	1264.5	1384.6	1284.9	898.8	754.2	207.1
Added value of Services Sector (in current price)	429.2	749.2	890.2	1151.5	1488.7	1894.1	2532.5	2908.6	3685.7
Added value of Services Sector (in constant price)	477.2	629.3	890.2	1029.1	1173.2	1281.3	1558.6	1634.1	1766.1

acceptable reasons hasn't yet reached the pre-revolutionary era level. Our government and people too have no intention of adopting 'open-door policy.' As to our monetary and financial condition, Table 2 below can go to answer many questions.

Table 2 - Figures in Billion Rials - 1974 = 100

<u>Year</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Volume of money	158.6	202.7	327.2	436.5	611.2	790.5	1236.5	1665.8	2201.4
Pseudo-money	240.7	313.1	502.9	699.0	982.3	1306.5	1342.1	1884.2	2134.5
Price Index of Average Goods & Services in year	77.9	86.6	100	109.9	128.1	160.2	176.2	196.2	242.5
Average wholesale price index in year	75.4	85.5	.00	105.3	119.5	136.9	149.9	179.6	234.3

In view of the negative growth of GNP and a decline in the growth of most of the productive sectors, the volume of money ought to have declined or at least remained constant. But it has had a reverse movement. Table 2 shows the speedy growth of the volume of money. For example, as you observe in the Table, volume of money in 1978 was 70 percent higher than that in 1977. The reason for it was that the government of traitor Sharif Imami, in order to slow down the revolutionary movement in the administrative system of the country, made use of the policy of allurement, and upgraded the salaries of government staff through circulating a larger number of currency notes. This culminated in an abnormal rise in the volume of money, and the next result was the inflation that followed the victory of the revolution. It is an acknowledged truth that even after the victory of the revolution, the monetary and financial growth was not in coordination with the pace of real growth of commodities and services. Its natural result too is the inflation which we are confronting at present. Similarly, a colossal amount of money was absorbed in the services sector. This money apart from further activating and expanding the services sector, also fanned up the consumerist spirit of the people that had remained as a sinister heritage of the past regime, and consequently the pace of inflationary rate was intensified. If to this are added acts, like hoarding and false exchange of several goods through agents, it can then be said that the services sector, since the victory of the revolution until now, has inflicted deadly blows upon the revolution.

The general features of Iran's present economy can be stated as under:

1. Generally, there exists a difference in outlook in respect of economic issues of the society. This means that there are ultimately distinguishable two specific modes of thinking: (a) The first mode of thinking believes that the government should interfere less in economic matters, and there should be no restriction on ownership. In general, this outlook is based upon acceptance of an 'open market' economy. (b) The second mode of thinking considers essential greater intervention by the Islamic Government, and believes that the extent of ownership should be restricted. This group accepts the 'open market' system but with reservations. It is essential to state the point that in the first mode of thinking, the element of capital (if secured in a lawful manner) enjoys special significance, while in the second case, the element of work (i.e. useful work) is given greater attention.

2. The difference in outlook, as mentioned above, prepares the groundwork for expression of beliefs, growth of thoughts, and enquiry. But in the present conditions, it would delay the performance of many essential tasks. Iranian economy is generally a dependent and a consumerist one. In order to get rid of such a hellish situation, there are required many years of work, research and movement on a planned basis. Any non-seriousness in these matters would God forbid, lead to further suspension of our activities in this situation, and bring about still major reverses.

3. Our national economy is a single-commodity one as in this economy, a major share is contributed to national income by oil alone whereas it can be turned into the most significant pole of national development and progress. Of course, it is conditional to the fact that its growing effects are absorbed within the economy, not outside it.

4. In the industrial field, despite the existence of numerous plants, the industrial base of Iran is, in no way, coherent with the standards of self-sufficiency and independence, and most of the plants are assembly units dependent on the West, and in some cases on the East. To get rid of this situation, it is essential to expand the mother and heavy industries as much as possible.

5. Iranian agriculture suffered many blocs and adverse results in the days of the past regime and on account of its improper programs and treacherous policies. Fortunately, after the victory of the revolution and in pursuit of the instructions and guidelines of Imam Khomeini, this major sector of our economy is proceeding to regain its real worth. However, due to such problems as geographical location, relatively short water supply, migration to urban areas, lack of welfare facilities in rural regions etc, there is needed adequate time so that, aided by specific programs, this sector of national economy could be made still more active, and our society could attain self-sufficiency in agriculture, and, God willing, export farm products. In this respect, the role of the agro-industries and specification of the Land Reform Bill are among the elements which could boost the pace of development of this sector.

6. In the field of services, he said earlier, the trend of intermediaries, excessive profiteering, hoarding, and, above all, very speedy progress of this sector along side enjoyment of a large amount of cash money, are among the major constraints of our society. Undoubtedly, if the situation in this sector continues on the same course, it could create serious dangers for the economy.

7. As already said the monetary and financial position, especially after the revolution, has had no proportion or coordination with the real increase in goods and services, and the former element has always exceeded the latter one. Basic reason for that is a decline in the real products and a hike in the cash money through various means, especially loans given by the Central Bank to the government which, in themselves, are debatable. In any case, non-coordination and disproportion between these two elements, and the increase in financial and monetary current over the goods and services are the main reasons for inflation and expansion of the services sector.

8. In respect of consumption habits, although there have been brought about a series of changes in the public trends and inclinations, due to the great involvement of the society in the consumerism modelled on Western habits, many years are needed to reform the consumerist culture of our society.

The values of the Islamic Revolution are causing an upheaval in our economy. The slogan of "neither East, nor West" is not solely a political outcry but in the economic sphere, it can bring many blessings to our society. However, it must be pointed out that the scope of the programs should be totally specified at the soonest, and the implements duly recognised for acting properly. It shouldn't be forgotten that the real aspiration of the revolutionary people is to realise the Islam form and contents. Any disregard of these two major elements, which are supplementary to one another, would undoubtedly lead us astray, and stagnate our independence-seeking spirit and movement towards self-sufficiency.

CSO: 4600/476

REVOLUTIONARY SHIFT OF ECONOMY PUBLICIZED

Decline of Aristocratic Luxury

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] TEHRAN, March 27 (IRNA)--In its editorial today, the Persian daily Jomhuri Eslami has said that during the past regime a tendency towards luxury, status and aristocratic elegance prevailed in the lives of a large percentage of well-to-do Iranians.

Then it regrets that the Islamic Revolution has as yet failed to introduce a revolution in the minds of a large number of the wealthy class, so as they might abandon extravagance and the values they place on aristocratic eliticism.

The editorial commends the changing pattern of everyday living as voluntarily adopted by many of the moneyed class but notes that a significant percentage of members of affluent society of the past Iran have done so only under coercion and only in a bid to protect themselves from the stigma of aristocracy in the Islamic Republic.

The editorial argues that the change, since the Islamic Revolution, in the patterns of every day living has been somewhat superficial since such changes have not been consciously adopted by the wealthy class in the wake of a systematic edification and learning.

It has quoted a statement by Imam Khomeini during his talks to a group of visiting public officials at his residence on the New Year's day whereby he reminded the visiting officials that the principal task in this connection is to revolutionize the ethical values of the past and among the wealthy class and help to fully demean the values which put a premium on living in opulent comfort or ostentatious mode of living in super de luxe houses, and concludes that the task is a cultural one and should be tackled systematically and with due respect to its cultural dimensions in the future.

Remarkable Growth of GNP

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] TEHRAN, March 27 (IRNA)--Despite the difficult conditions caused by the Iraqi imposed war and the post-revolutionary problems encumbering the Islamic Republic, the economy showed a growth after three years of steady decline.

According to a report published by the Central Bank, the gross national product in the country rose by 2.2 percent reaching 2,620 billion rials (\$38 billion), in the year 1360 (March 21, 1980-March 20, 1981) compared to the previous year. The report said this was the first time that the GNP showed a growth since 1357 (March 1978-March 1979), the year of the Islamic Revolution.

The report also said that the added value of all economic sectors except for those of construction, mining and services, showed a growth in the same year. Also in 1360, the share of the agricultural sector in the GNP continued its growth as of the previous years and reached 15 percent from the previous year's 13.9. The share of the oil, industries and mining did not show any marked change while the share of the services sector dropped from 66.9 in 1359 to 65.3 in 1360.

The added value of the agricultural sector showed an unprecedented increase of 10.2 percent in the same year while the industrial sector showed an added value of only 1.5 percent and the water, electricity and natural gas sector showed an added value of 22 percent.

The report said the gross national income rose 3.7 percent and the per capita income rose 1.2 percent in 1360.

Local Improvements Tallied

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 27 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] A Year's Activities of the Construction Jihad of Ardebil

ARDEBIL (The Daily Islamic Republic)--The Public Relations Office of Ardebil (Northwestern Iran) issued a report of the activities of its various committees, carried out during the past year of 1361 (which ended on March 20). According to the report these activities are as follows:

Cultural Committee

Six hundred and fifty showings of educational films and slides to villagers; distribution of 1,004 tapes, 15,400 books, 50,450 posters and 21,200 magazines and newspapers; 600 cases of supplying stationery to students; the holding of 180 exhibitions; formation of 75 rural councils; 800 cases of holding debates; the holding of 90 ideological classes for villagers; 1230 cases of settling the villagers' disputes and the dispatch of volunteers to the fronts.

Technical Committee

Construction on three hundred and eight instances of door and window frames and tanks, supply of 360 tractors with plows to villagers; complete repairs of 95 tractors; repairs and servicing of 1,133 light and heavy machines; and turning operations on a personnel carrier and two hovercrafts.

Loans Committee

Payment of 255 million rials to the farmers of 174 villages in loans; supply of 670 oxen, 780 cows and 320 sheep to villagers; delivery of 11 tractors, 13 trailers, nine plows, six motor pumps, two combine threshers, two trucks, one grader and one loader to farmers, digging of seven deep wells, construction of a bath house, and two mills.

Agricultural Committee

Distribution of 10,000 tons of fertilizers, 110 kilos of insecticide, 328 shovels, 182 tractors, three combine threshers, 942 pairs of tires, 92 motor pumps and threshers, and 27 incubation machines to villagers; reaping of 665,000 kilos of potatoes and 2,283,000 kilos of wheat and barley, cultivation of 30,250 kilos of improved seeds and holding of 10 instruction classes at schools.

Veterinary Committee

Vaccination of more than 70,000 heads of livestock and poultry against various diseases; disinfection of 228 stables; and delivery of rials 8,427,970 worth of veterinary drugs to the cattle-breeders and poultry farmers of the region.

Construction Committee

Thirteen cases of completing the construction of roads, construction of 35 bridges, four buildings, two reservoirs, 16 bathhouses, two clinics, two libraries, four powerhouses and one school; 15 cases of repairs and building mosques; and the supply of piped drinking water to six villages.

Health and Treatment Committee

Treatment for 35,000 patients; 15,960 cases of bandaging and inoculation of outpatients; supply of rials 1,400,000 worth of medicine to patients at no cost; 10,000 cases of providing rare drugs for patients; and the dispatch of several medical teams to the war fronts.

CSO: 4600/481

TUDEH PARTY IS SUPPORTER OF FARMERS

TA302101 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Suppressing the Supporters of the Oppressed Is To the Revolution's Detriment"]

[Text] Dear compatriots, dear farmers: More than 4 years have passed since the Iranian nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution, and it is more than 4 years since you, the oppressed and toilers, were promised implementation of fundamental land reform. However, the gift of the defenders of the system of serfdom and capitalism entrenched in the revolution's institutions and the government's sensitive organizations--the ultrarightists, and super-ficials, the American Hojjatis and other penetrating elements--despite the wish of the Imam and the committed and realistic officials of the Islamic Government and the Muslim strugglers, has been rejection of the law of restoration and distribution of agricultural land on one hand, and arrest of leaders of a party who for more than 40 years have struggled with all their being for the liberation of farmers from the captivity of feudalists on the other.

Perhaps some people will raise the question: What connection is there between the arrest of leaders and members of the Tudeh Party with rejection of the law of restoration and distribution of land? By paying slight attention one can easily see the existence of such a connection.

As we are aware, in our emancipated homeland the Iranian Tudeh Party is the only party which since its founding and up to today has strived with utmost decisiveness and consistency for improving the conditions of our homeland's towns' and villages' toilers. One of its main and basic slogans is dispossession of a handful of landlords and feudalists, and distribution of land among its real owners--farmers with no land and with small landholdings--at a countrywide level. This party is also the only party which since the very first day of the revolution's victory raised the proud banner of defense of Iranian workers and farmers and all of our homeland's toilers. It has also sincerely and with utmost decisiveness defended and continues to defend the revolution's and the Imam's popular and anti-imperialist line.

In accordance with the testimony of all its publications and documents, the Iranian Tudeh Party is a party which has defended and continues to defend with

Utmost consistency all the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist programs, and the Imam's guidelines for improving the condition of the slumdweller and struggling against the palace-dwellers.

According to everyone's acknowledgment, it was the Tudeh and the majority Feda'is who decisively and strongly protested rejection of the law of restoration and distribution of agricultural land, the law of nationalization of foreign trade and other fundamental laws by the Council of Guardians, and assessed this act as a measure against the Imam's wish, against the Islamic Republic's constitution and against the goals of the revolution. The hard destiny-making class battle between the supporters and defenders of the system of serfdom and capitalism has reached such a sensitive stage that not only can the opponents of the revolution's and the Imam's genuine line no longer tolerate the Tudeh and its revelations, but consider it a serious danger to them.

The dear compatriots are certainly aware that the liberals, the rightists, the superficia, the U.S.- afflicted Hojjatis and other penetrating elements in the Islamic Republic Party, in the Majlis and the Council of Guardians, in government organizations and in all institutions, and both within the country and abroad at the hands of the monarchists, the wawakists and multifarious U.S. mini-groups, have risen against the sincere followers of the revolution's and Imam's line and against the true forces of the revolution, particularly the Iranian Tudeh Party. Although it is bitter, it is an undeniable fact that in this destiny-making class battle the opponents of the Imam's line, headed by the American Hojjatis, have achieved some success as well.

In fact, the onslaught against the Iranian Tudeh Party and the arrest of its leaders and members should be assessed as the initial stages of an onslaught against the sincere followers of the Imam's line in the Islamic leadership, and against the struggling Muslims with the aim of crushing the Islamic Republic.

Only a few months before starting the final stages of the plot to crush the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the accursed Qotbzadeh, the CIA spy, had advised all his associates and collaborators that in order to overthrow Iran's present government they must first eliminate the Iranian Tudeh Party. Other groups and minigroups opposed to the revolution have also uttered statements similar to those which the accursed Qotbzadeh had said about the Iranian Tudeh Party. These remarks have been stated and are being stated by the staunch foes of land reform, by those who want to restore the system of serfdom and capitalism, and by the foes and opponents of all the popular aims of the revolution.

Those who, instead of suppressing the opponents and foes of the revolution's and Imam's line, are attacking the sincere defenders of the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line, whether willingly or not, are preparing the ground for the revolution's defeat by their own hands.

CSO: 4640/163

LATEST TRADE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 8 Mar 83 pp 2-5

[Text] I. Trade

Foreign Trade

Belgium: Andre Kempinaire, the Belgian Foreign Trade Minister who arrived on March 1, 1983 at the head of an economic delegation, met and conferred with Dr. Hassan Ghafuri-Fard, Ministry of Energy of the Islamic Republic. Ghafuri-Fard, in this meeting, said that the Belgian contractors' work on electric and water supply projects in Iran was not satisfactory, further saying, neither is the equipment they had supplied to us. It is expected that hereafter more attention would be taken by the Belgian officials and officials in charge, he said. Kempinaire, in reply said after personally witnessing the stability of the Islamic Republic he was sure that this problem would be solved immediately and with ease. Concluding the meeting, both sides expressed interest in the expansion of bilateral technical and commercial ties. The Belgian Economic and Trade Delegation headed by Foreign Trade Minister Andre Kempinaire, left Tehran on March 4 following a three day visit and talks with Iranian officials. Prior to his departure the Belgian External Trade Minister told IRNA that during his stay in Tehran, he has had the opportunity to discuss possibilities of cooperation between Iran and Belgium in the fields of industry, trade and agriculture. He further added that following talks with the Iranian government officials a letter of understanding for cooperation in industry and trade was signed. In the future visits, he added, the matter would have to be further followed up. The Belgian Foreign Trade Minister said that he also extended an official invitation to the Iranian Minister of Commerce, Habibollah Asgar-Owladi, to visit Belgium, which was accepted. Commenting on the letter of understanding Asgar-Owladi said that it would enable in exchange for the technological assistance to Tehran. The Iranian Minister said that his Belgian counterpart had announced that a high ranking Belgian economic mission would visit Iran late next Spring.

Yugoslavia: Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Hadi Nejad-Husseinian announced Iran's willingness for the establishment of cooperation with Yugoslavia in the fields of transportation, construction of piers and electrification of railways, calling for the commencement of the groundwork

in these respects. Conferring with the visiting head of the Yugoslav Economic Delegation, Ani Markovich, the Iranian Minister underscored the friendly ties that were established between the two countries, clinched after the victory of the Iranian Revolution. The Yugoslav official called for the expansion of mutual economic relations expressing his country's desire for the sale of locomotives to Iran, their repair works and also training of the required technical personnel in this connection. He also announced Yugoslavia's readiness for the electrification of Bafq-Bandar Abbas Railway, construction of ports and transportation facilities.

Japan: The Islamic Republic of Iran has purchased another cargo ship according to Commerce Ministry. The announcement added that this ship named Iran-Modarress with a capacity of 34,000 tons brings to seven the number of cargo ships of Iran. The Commerce Ministry said that Iran-Modarress [as published] was launched in one of the Japanese ports, on Feb. 28, 1983.

II. Industry

Electric Factory Production: 14 Percent Up:

In the past 11 months, 31.5 million sockets and switches have been produced by Iran Electric Factory. The Manager of the factory said that compared to the same period of time last year this represents a 14 percent increase. He also expressed the hope that by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 1983) production level will surpass 35 million units. Continuing his remarks, the Factory's Manager said that most of the repairs of equipment and manufacturing of parts are done by Iranians. Speaking further on expanded production, he said several moulding machines have been ordered from foreign countries and upon acquiring the same production is expected for increase to 42 million units in the coming Iranian year.

White Sugar Production: 33 Percent Up:

Iran has produced over 700,000 tons of white sugar during the current Iranian year 1361 (starting March 21, 1982) announced the public relations office of the country's Sugar Organisation. This was due to the increase in the crop harvest of sugarcane and sugarbeet, the former topping 2 million tons and the latter 4 million this year. The rise in the white sugar production makes an increase of 33 percent as compared to the past year production of 180,000 tons. This increase is a great step towards the country's self-sufficiency.

China Ware Gross Sales: \$9 Million

Iran Porcelain Factory of Rasht has manufactured 2,013,315 pieces of china-ware over the past 11 months (starting March 21, 1982). Compared to this same period last year this represents a 45 percent increase. The Manager said the factory produces 3,357 pieces of Chinaware daily and production is expected to rise. He also said 50 percent of the raw materials used in the factory can be acquired domestically. Continuing, he said parts and tens

of machines needed by the factory have been made by Iranians. Concluding his remarks, he said, the factory has grossed from sales of its products over 11-month period 773,774,850 Rials (over \$9.1 million).

Aluminium Factory Begins Production

The Navard Aluminium Factory of Arak according to the pre-planned program will commence operation mid 1984 and will undertake to supply and meet the various aluminium products needs of the country. This is announced as an attainment of self-sufficiency in this field for the country. Zomoruddin Managing Director of the Navard Factory of Arak while announcing this further said that 70 percent of the machinery in the factory has been installed and committed Iranian specialists. The aluminium product needs of the country, he said, was estimated at 30,000 tons annually.

III. Oil

Persian Gulf Oil Produces: Price Reduction of \$5-\$7

Eight OPEC Oil Ministers held an inconclusive round of talks on March 4 with warning by the United Arab Emirates that Persian Gulf States would slash their rates unless agreement was reached on a moderate cut. UAE Oil Minister Sheikh Mana Al-Otalba emerged from a meeting with two of the ministers to sound the warning as diplomats reported difficulties in key negotiations with Britain, the non-OPEC producer now being asked to help avert a global price collapse. He said he hoped Iran would send its minister to the talks. "I hope he will come," he said when asked if Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi was expected to join. Unless Britain is persuaded to adjust its \$3 North Sea price cut which would ensue a readjustment in Nigeria's \$5.50 cut in its best crude, Otalba said "We in the Persian Gulf are going to decide our own price and it is going to be much lower than 30 dollars." The Persian Gulf producers, particularly the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar have indicated they could cut the price by \$5-7 a barrel.

U.A.E. Undercuts Oil Price

U.A.E. was said by a Japanese official to be already selling its crude at four to \$4.5 per barrel below the OPEC benchmark level of 34 dollars. The Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Qabas published a transcript of an interview published in Tokyo this week with the new Japanese ambassador to Kuwait, Jeri Aiko, during which he was cited as accepting as a fact the interviewer's statement that "Abudhabi was discontinuing its governmental price for crude by 4-4.5 dollars per barrel." Japan is the leading importer of UAE crude oil.

Mexico Stays Out of OPEC Rush

Mexico said it would stand aside and let the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries set a new benchmark price for crude oil. The Mexican Embassy issued a statement stating the country's policy as eight OPEC Ministers met in London in an unsuccessful "mini-OPEC" conference aimed at reaching a price and production compromise. Mexican officials would not

say if they were invited to the talks but an aide of Venezuelan oil minister told UPI Mexico would not be attending the talk. British and Norwegian officials already had said they were not sending any observers to the meeting. The statement said Mexico, which is not an OPEC member, would hold back on any official price reductions in order to avoid putting further pressure on world oil prices. It said Mexico would not take "any initiative which could have a negative effect in the oil market."

IV. Construction

Port Installations Construction Starts

The tender to construct port installations in the Qeshm, Jask and Lengeh Islands in the Persian Gulf was given to the "Sezayi Turkish Feyzi Akaya" Company of Turkey and the agreement was signed between Iran and that firm on March 1, 1983, announced the Shipping and Ports Organisation's public relations section. The aforementioned ports are multi-purpose ones which, in addition to providing berthing facilities for fishing vessels, coastal traffic, fuelling, could also be used by the ships of the Islamic Republic Naval Forces, and those belonging to Gendarmerie and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps. These ports contain breakwaters and piers which are 5.5 meters deep at full ebb. They are also equipped with auxiliary establishments including covered and open warehouses, passenger terminal building, administration buildings and housing units, water and sewage reservoirs.

Irrigation Network Construction Progresses

Varamin Plateau's Irrigation Network was inspected by the Energy Minister Hassan Ghafuri Fard, State Minister in Charge of the Plan and Budget Organisation Mohammad Taqi Banki, and Agriculture Minister Mohammad Salamati and several officials of the Ministry of Energy. The Varamin Plateau Irrigation network includes a diversion dam 610 meters long, with an emergency spillway 375 meters in length, including 8 radial gates. The dam's height is 3.5 meters, and its networks contain channels with 32 cubic meters per second drainage capacity in the beginning and 12 cubic meters per second capacity in the end. The length of the channel is 300 kilometers. The Tehran-Varamin channel is 36 kilometers long, starting from South of Tehran to the vicinities of the Jamalabad village in the Varamin Plateau. These channels irrigate the 50,000 hectares of land with some 500 million cubic meters of water annually. The construction of the network which was started in mid-1976 was halted for a period when the Islamic Revolution of Iran was in progress. After the Revolution, construction was resumed and some 72 percent of the works has been carried so far. The construction will be completed in late 1983.

V. Agriculture

Livestock Figures Released

There are 68 million heads of sheep and goats and 7 million heads of cow in Iran at present, said Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Razi Maibodi in a

press conference on March 1, 1983. He added that 1,500 heads of cow will be imported from Canada before the Iranian New Year beginning March 21, 1983. Referring to the domestic supply and imports of chicken Dr. Maibodi said 185 million chicks had been provided to poultry farm owners in the last Iranian year, March 21, 1981 to March 20, 1982, 150 million of which have been hatched locally and the rest 35 million have been imported. In the current Iranian Year 194 million chicks have been hatched in Iran and 8 million imported from abroad. Talking about feed and provender, he said that 1/3 of the needs is locally produced and 2.3 million tons will be imported next year.

Domestic Food Production Up

Foodstuffs Deputy at the Ministry of Industries, Mohammad Hussein, said that at present 60 percent of the country's annual sugar needs was met domestically which would increase he said, to 75 percent by the end of the current Iranian Year March 21, 1983. He added that with the operation of Karun and Haft Tappeh agro-industrial complexes, lump sugar imports dropped by 10 percent. Hussein said that so far 297,000 tons of vegetable shortening had been produced, due to reach 330,000 tons by March 21. The total capacity of vegetable shortening factories are about 518,000 tons due to rise to 786,000 tons in the 5-year plan he noted. Last year, Hussein said 234 permits were issued for the establishment of factories, resulting in a 60 percent hike in foodstuffs production. In future programs priority would be given to deprived provinces and cities, he said.

CSO: 4600/472

KING DECLARES PANCHAYAT SYSTEM DEMOCRATIC

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 20 Mar 83 pp 1, 6

[Interview with King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev]

[Text] His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev has declared that the Panchayat System is wedded to democratic ideals and is concerned to insure national integration, political stability and economic development. His Majesty the King stated that the polity had emerged as a response to problems of uncertainty and insecurity that the political parties plunged the nation into during the fifties.

His Majesty the King made these observations in an interview granted in Kathmandu to Mr. Salamat Ali, South and West Asia correspondent of the Far Eastern Economic Review, Hong Kong, during audience on Feb. 21, 1983.

Dispelling the possibility of the country returning to the party system, His Majesty referred to the national referendum and stressed that the Nepalese people had not given their mandate to the Panchayat polity as a stop-gap measure.

Describing the Panchayat System as basically a dynamic one oriented to national realities and committed to develop its own identity, His Majesty stated that it had all along been sensitive and responsive to issues and challenges confronting the nation from time to time. His Majesty pointed out that the Panchayat polity was not rigid in its posture to on-coming problems, rather it envisaged change to evolve over time within the parameters of its fundamental principles.

In reply to a query about the possibility of national stability being threatened by rising expectations against a backdrop of paucity of economic resources, His Majesty answered that the challenge lay in mobilising resources both internally and externally and creating a conducive environment for accelerated investments in the country.

Stating that Nepal had succeeded to some extent in mobilising internal resources during the current plan period more than in previous years, His Majesty added that this had to some extent mitigated the problems which could otherwise have been faced at a time when the flow of concessional loans did

not seem easy His Majesty hoped that countries and agencies extending economic cooperation would realise the problems of developing countries like Nepal in this respect.

Full text of the Interview is as follows:

Q. Nepal is often described as the 'Non-aligned amongst the Non-aligned'. In keeping with this spirit, what role Your Majesty proposes to play at the Summit next month?

Ans. The nonalignment movement is a heterogeneous movement. You cannot therefore expect all member countries to have identical views. However, nonaligned countries are bound by the common commitment to the basic principles of interstate relationship such as respect for each other's sovereignty, non-interference and peaceful coexistence. Nepal has been consistently upholding the fundamental principles of nonalignment and the UN Charter and this may give the impression that we are more nonaligned among nonaligned countries. We do not, however, believe in categorization. I think now more than ever, we should all work for the unity and solidarity of the movement on the basis of its original principles.

Q. Your Majesty has often emphasised the proposal for global acceptance of Nepal as a Zone of Peace. The proposal has met almost overwhelming support from Asian states. Do Your Majesty propose to strive for support from those who have not extended it so far? If so, would the Summit be an opportunity for doing so?

Ans. The Zone of Peace proposal is based on the needs and aspirations of the Nepalese people. For, we feel basically that the development of our country can best be realised in a climate of peace and security. Most of the countries of Asia and in our neighbourhood which we have approached and are concerned with peace and stability of the region are among the thirty countries that have supported the proposal so far. The proposal is also a contribution that we as a country can make for peace in our region and thus also in the world. In this context, our efforts to gain more support for the proposal will continue at whatever level and place needed.

Q. What is Your Majesty's view on a seemingly similar proposal for declaring the whole of South Asia as a Zone of Peace?

Ans. In a world fraught with conflict and confrontation, nothing could be more reassuring than to have peace established and strengthened wherever and whenever possible. We in Nepal understand the need and importance of Zones of Peace as we ourselves have put forward a proposal to have Nepal declared a Zone of Peace. We have as such welcomed and supported various areas of the world as Zones of Peace and would be happy to continue to support similar initiatives. Common sense and experience teach us that threats to peace in one part of the world engender instability in other parts. Peace is basically indivisible and peace in any part of the world contributes to global peace. That is why I feel it is only natural and wise for advocates of Zone of Peace in one region to support initiatives elsewhere, as we ourselves are doing.

Q. Do Your Majesty favour a proposal of creating a maritime link between Bangladesh and Nepal through India?

Ans. We believe that water is one of the rare natural resources of our region which can be put to multiple use for the common and collective benefit. We are, therefore, in favour of close cooperation among the countries of the region for the development of water resources. Among the benefits we should include the development of river navigation facilities within the region and to the sea. We need not overemphasise that navigation facilities and maritime links hold great attraction and importance for a landlocked country like Nepal.

Q. Nepal is moving steadily towards cooperation with India on four new irrigation cum-power generation projects. In its bilateral discussion with India, Bangladesh has been arguing that development of the hydel potential of the eastern part of the subcontinent should be a cooperative endeavour between the three riparian states—India, Nepal and Bangladesh. What is Your Majesty's view on this issue?

Ans. Nepal is committed for the development of water resources for bilateral as well as regional and multilateral cooperation. We want to develop our vast water resources potential to benefit Nepal as well as the countries of this region.

My Government has been discussing with the Government of India the Karnali, West Rapti and Pancheshwar multipurpose projects and these are expected to make headway in future. So far as the Sapta Kosi, which lies in the eastern part of Nepal, is concerned, Nepal is undertaking a Master Plan Study of the entire basin to identify the respective positions of several possible projects therein. Nepal has made its stand clear that she is prepared to examine the development of her water resources potential in a way to benefit both India and Bangladesh, if both the countries make a joint proposal. My Government will look into such a proposal, it goes without saying, from the prime consideration of Nepal's overall national interest.

Q. Following some controversy in the recent past, Your Majesty decided to amend the Panchayat System last year. Does Your Majesty think that the changes made last year have stabilised the Panchayat System and no further changes are now called for?

Ans. The Panchayat System is basically a dynamic system oriented to national realities and committed to develop its own identity. The present system has all along been sensitive and responsive to issues and challenges confronting the nation from time to time. The Panchayat polity is not rigid in its posture to oncoming problems, rather it envisages change to evolve over time within the parameters of its fundamental principles.

Q. There was a time when Nepal permitted political parties to operate. Do you foresee the possibility over the next few years of the country returning to the same system?

Ans. I had a referendum held for this very purpose and, as you know, the people voted for the Panchayat system. This system is wedded to democratic ideals and is concerned to insure national integration, political stability and economic development as well. It had emerged as a response to problems of uncertainty and insecurity that the political parties plunged the nation into during the fifties. The Nepalese people have not given their mandate to the Panchayat polity as a stopgap measure.

Q. Is it likely that national stability may be threatened by rising expectations against a backdrop of paucity of economic resources? If so, has any thinking been done on a long-term economic strategy for Nepal? Sri Lanka, for instance, has opted for a free market economy based on a plan for rapid development through incentives to foreign capital to invest locally in environs of minimal governmental controls. Does Your Majesty think that a similar strategy may not work well in Nepal?

Ans. It is true that expectations of our people are rising and our country is not blessed with the required economic resources. The challenge lies in mobilising resources both internally and externally and creating a conducive environment for accelerated investments in the country. We have succeeded to some extent in mobilising internal resources during the current plan period more than in previous years. This has to some extent mitigated the problems we would otherwise face at a time when the flow of concessional loans does not seem easier. I hope countries and agencies extending economic cooperation will realise the problems of developing countries like Nepal in this respect. About the free market economy and industrial investment, our sixth plan has a strategy to attract private capital in this sector. The "Foreign Investment and Technology Act" and the "Industrial Act" have made provisions to attract foreign capital and assure security of investment. Bearing in mind our constraints, these conditions seem favourable for the development of the free market economy.

CSO: 4600/492

BREAKTHROUGH MADE IN EXPANDING AIRLINE NETWORK

Karachi-Kathmandu Route Agreement

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 19 Mar 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] The review of the existing air agreement between Nepal and Pakistan ended here Friday morning after the signing of a new civil aviation accord which will allow reciprocal flying rights for the airlines of the two countries to link Karachi, Kathmandu and points beyond.

Describing the new civil aviation cooperation agreement as a "great breakthrough", leader of the Nepali delegation to the talks, Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Chairman of Royal Nepal Airlines, Mr. Tej Bahadur Prasai, praised the Pakistani side for showing "goodwill, cooperation and friendship" during the talks.

The agreement was reached after three days of deliberations between representatives from the two countries.

The Pakistani side was led by Pakistan International Airlines chairman and Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence Major General M. Rahim Khan, who told newsmen after the signing ceremony that the air pact between Nepal and Pakistan on air linking the two nations was important enough not to worry the two airlines about its economic viability only. "We will start the service", he added, "and take it as a challenge".

Under the agreement, PIA will start operating a once-a-week flight from Karachi to Kathmandu from April 15 onwards with Boeing 707 aircraft. One of the flights will be a direct 2 hr. 40 min. link between Karachi and Kathmandu, while the other will continue on to Dhaka.

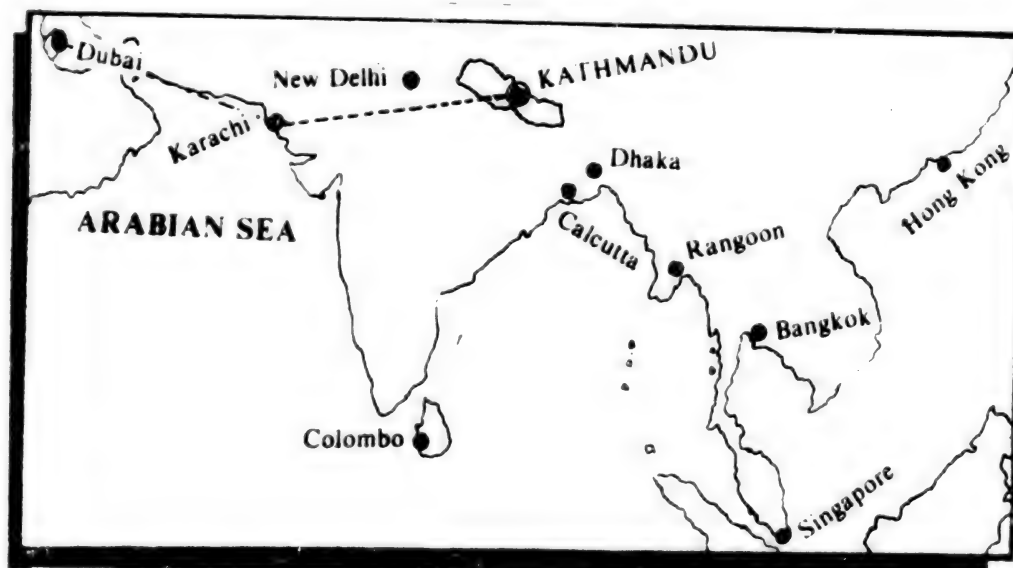
Royal Nepal Airlines will now be able to fly the Kathmandu Karachi route and beyond to Dubai, with fifth freedom traffic right in Karachi Dubai sector. Provision has also been made for Royal Nepal Airlines to make a direct flight to Dubai with only a technical halt in Karachi.

The Nepali flag carrier expects to start its services in October this year after the acquisition of an additional aircraft. The frequency of the flights could be increased through mutual consultations if traffic justified it.

Addressing the press, Mr. Prasai said that PIA and RNAC will not compete on the new routes, but cooperate in promoting the joint air link. He added, "Nepal may be landlocked, but she is no more skylocked". This view was reciprocated by Major General Mr. Rahim Khan who added that PIA had conceded the Karachi-Gulf route which he said was PIA's "life line".

Asked if PIA, too, was keen on extending its Kathmandu connection on to Singapore or Hong Kong, Major General Rahim replied that this may be taken up in future meetings. Royal Nepal Airlines Plans to fly to Singapore via Rangoon later this year.

The civil aviation cooperation agreement also calls for further cooperation and technical assistance to Royal Nepal Airlines, for which, Major General Khan said, "a fresh beginning would made from now".



Map showing points operated by Royal Nepal Airlines as well as the proposed route to Dubai (dotted line) via Karachi.

It may be recalled that PIA has been responsible for giving technical training to most RNAC pilots and technicians in the sixties during the days when the Nepali airline still operated DC-3s.

Besides this, the two airlines have also agreed to cooperate in joint marketing and promotional fields. Major General Rahim clarified that he was more keen on helping Royal Nepal Airlines set up its own facilities so that it did not become "permanently dependent" on foreign know-how.

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 20 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] In describing Friday's Nepal-Pakistan agreement as "a great breakthrough", the Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Chairman of Royal Nepal Airlines, Mr. Tej Bahadur Prasai, was not indulging in hyperbole. Its significance can perhaps be best gauged from the fact that thirty year after the dawn of civil aviation in this country, the Kingdom's flag carrier has not been able to extend its wings further west than New Delhi. The agreement between Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and RNAC goes a step beyond the existing 1976 agreement by allowing both airlines to operate one point beyond Kathmandu and Karachi each. While one PIA flight will be direct Karachi-Kathmandu one, the other bi-weekly PIA flight will continue on to Dhaka. What this means, in effect, is that Royal Nepal Airlines can now flex its wings to Dubai in the lucrative Gulf route via Karachi. Indeed, this is perhaps what Mr. Prasai meant when he referred to Nepal being landlocked, but "no more sky-locked". The agreement can, therefore, rightly be described as a milestone in Nepal's civil aviation history. Furthermore, it should not only make the flag carrier's route map show a more balanced expansion, but will also give it greater exposure in the region, thus further helping in boosting tourism in this country.

PIA's re-entry into Nepal, an involvement that had been terminated in 1971 due to well known developments unconnected with aviation, thus augurs well for the overall growth of tourism in this country. The tourism sector has been lamenting loud and long about the insufficient promotion of Nepal in the outside world.

Another aspect that deserves notice is that the Pakistani delegation, led by the Chairman of PIA and Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence, Mr. M. Rahim Khan, did not apparently press for a point beyond Kathmandu such as Singapore or Hong Kong. Indeed, it would have been only natural for them to do so since PIA has allowed RNAC two flights a week into what Major General Rahim called "PIA's life-line", referring obviously to the Karachi-Dubai sector. All this is clearly reflective of the great understanding and goodwill shown by Pakistan towards Nepal to further deepen a relationship that has been carefully nurtured at the two respective ends at the very highest levels. The air agreement also usefully makes provisions for PIA to cooperate in joint marketing, promotion of services and in technical fields. This only follows a long-standing tradition for the Pakistan Government, which through its airline, has been responsible for the training of most Nepal pilots, and other technical cadre for the development civil aviation in this country.

The agreement can also, however, be seen from the border regional perspective, especially against the background of increased momentum to regional co-operation in South Asia. It is thus especially appropriate that three countries in the region, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, should soon be air-linked, as a consequence of this accord. This development should thus provide added boost to this worthy cause. RNAC plans to expand its services to Rangoon on to Singapore later this year. Taking together with this latest

agreement, it will make Nepal's flag carrier an airline of truly regional stature. While this will mark an aviation milestone that is significant, per se, the Friday's agreement will have made a big contribution towards this end.

Royal Airlines Seeking Planes

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 22 Mar 83 p 5

[Article by Kunda Dixit]

[Text] With Royal Nepal Airlines now committed to fly from Kathmandu to Singapore, Male, Karachi and Dubai by October this year there isn't much time left to make a decision on the type of aircraft to be acquired to operate the new routes. Kunda Dixit takes a critical look at the two aircraft under evaluation.

A decision has been impending ever since a first report on fleet evaluation was carried out several years ago. Even at that time, it had already been painfully apparent that the airline's aging Boeing 727 aircrafts were guzzling away at revenue, becoming a maintenance headache that threw schedules haywire, and losing their passenger appeal to the wide-body look of its competition. To maintain its leading edge, the airline therefore has to find aircraft more suited to the times.

Urgency

The airline has therefore been looking at 727 replacements with greater urgency, even though there is general agreement that this will only be a stop-gap arrangement till the mid eighties when a long-term fleet planning with A310s or Boeing 767s must be envisaged.

But at present the selection seems to be centered around advanced versions of the Boeing 727-200 and the Boeing 737-200. "To select the aircraft best suited for an airline is very complicated," an airline official told me vaguely when asked if a decision had been made.

The Boeing 727 is the best selling commercial aircraft of all time. After going into production in the early sixties, 1,832 aircraft have been sold to date, thus outflying its nearest competitor, the McDonnell Douglas DC-9, of which about 1,200 have been sold. Production of 727s has now practically ground to a halt with Boeing making only one aircraft a month before planning to cease production next year. The 727-200 is a "stretched" version of the series-100 that RNA currently owns which many airlines have used to replace their less-efficient 727-100s because of its spareparts compatibility and its lower fuel cost per seat. The series-200 carries up to 189 passengers compared to the 727-100's 119.

The 737-200 with advanced Pratt and Whitney JT8-D-17A engines, meanwhile, is a highly successful short-haul bi-jet and admirably suited to a high frequency

operation on trunk routes. One of the greatest attractions of the advanced 737-200 is its lower seat mile cost to the advanced 727-200. Not only is the 737-200 more fuel efficient than its tri-jet sisters, but on Royal Nepal Airlines' existing routes, for example, it would burn 23% less fuel than the present fuel-thirsty yetis, according to an airline evaluation. Fuel cost per seat for a 737-200 operating on the Kathmandu New Delhi sector, for example, would be NRs 248 as compared to Rs 315 for the 727-2-0. RNA's present 727-100/-100C burns Rs 313 worth of fuel per seat.

From a purely technical fuel-efficiency per seat standpoint, therefore the 737-200 seems to have a big plus point. The fuel consumption of an aircraft's engines is a vital component of its total direct operating costs. In addition, the 737-200's twin jets require less maintenance cost than the three engined 727, and also have easier maintenance bases with neighbouring airlines.

The landing and handling charges by airport agents are made on the basis of aircraft weight. The 737 falls in a lower category (with a weight of 57 tons compared to the 727-200's 87 tons) and therefore costs correspondingly less to handle.

To top it all, the 737-200 seems to come out a winner even from the point of view of breakeven levels. With the marked seasonality of traffic into Nepal, this aspect makes an added significance. What this means, in effect, is that more seats have to be sold on the bigger 727-200 aircraft for the aircraft to make itself pay for the flight. On the Colombo-Kathmandu sector, for example, a 737-200 has to lift at least 70 passengers to break even, while the Boeing 727-200 needs a hundred. On high density routes, therefore, a 737 can maintain a high frequency to connect in with interline schedules.

There is also a further question of what type of fleet would be most suitable for the airline to take on the international route expansion beginning October. At least one additional aircraft is therefore called for in flights to all the five new points are started simultaneously.

An optimum analysis of fleet variations reveals a strong case for two 737-200 and one existing 727-100 fleet, according to airline officials. However, it takes at least a year and a half for a new aircraft to be delivered if it is ordered from the manufacturers now. Crew conversion and maintenance training will also take time. In a hurry to meet the new schedules in October, therefore, the airline may be strongly attracted to buying off second-hand 727-200s (or even vintage 727-100s) to cash in on the market glut in the USA and Canada in this species of aircraft. But, as has been explained earlier, buying bigger or older aircraft with out-dated engines, even if it means that the initial capital outlay is at bargain prices may ultimately mean that we will have a fleet of white elephants.

Despite the cost of crew conversion and the investment necessary (a brand new 737-200 costs about US \$15,000,000) there seems to be a strong case for the smaller advanced twin-jet.

CSO: 4600/491

EDITORIALS CRITICIZE SHORTCOMINGS IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lack of Progress in Wheat Production

Kathmandu: THE MOTHERLAND in English 18 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Utter Failure"]

[Text]

Although much has been said and is uncertain terms the utter failure of the being said about crop diversification, authorities to plan and execute programmes designed to grow more wheat. For the cultivation of wheat where it is possible has made no significant progress. instance, if there is a plan, its implementation gets hampered due to lack of seeds or fertilizer, or poor distribution. It is This is so not for lack of interest on the part of the cultivators who have shown great eagerness to cultivate wheat to augment their income. The guilty party is the motivators, the authorities and the agricultural financial institutions. There is no co-ordinated effort to properly channelise the zeal of the cultivators, as a result the money and time that has been invested in wheat growing has failed to expand to the extent it could have, or should have. Money comes as a handy excuse for being always short but a careful scrutiny reveals in no official policies.

Mismanagement of Postal Services

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 19 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial: "About Time"]

[Text]

The postal service in this country, government also must consider probably the worst of its kind has been ways of making working conditions rightly criticised by both locals and foreign-favourable for the postal workers. The ners alike. Inspite of numerous recent conference held in this regard have complaints, it has stubbornly remained made resolutions to solve postal service the same and has turned a deaf ear to the problems and to make it more service thousands of people who have in some oriented, but a meaningful plan formulated by the government for the development way or the other fallen victims to its inefficiency and mismanagement. of the same is yet to come.

It was therefore quite relieving to If postal services are really to improve that the government is considering prove, and contribute to the success of to make the postal services more effective World Communications Year 1983 in any as it is one of the most important means way, sincere efforts must be made by the of communication. However, it is all too authorities concerned. The numerous well of ministers to ask postal service problems plaguing the system have been employees to work with greater sincerity. there for too long and it is about time the They must also realise the fact that the matter was thoroughly looked into.

Poverty Hurting Political System

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 22 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Democracy & Poverty"]

[Text]

Democracy and poverty do not go together. And as far as Nepal is concerned one will have very little reason to be over enthusiastic about democracy which actually means nothing to the teeming millions living below subsistence level. Democracy in one form or another has been there in the country for over three decades now, yet everybody can see very clearly that the people in general suffer from a kind of political ennui. Poverty in the extreme is the obvious reason and to it can be added the lack of political mechanism which can sustain the democratic spirit of the people. The politicians of the older generation are on the side line for various reasons and the neo-politicians seem to have reached cul-de-sac for lack of economic and political programmes which could enthuse the people.

His Majesty the King in his message on the occasion of the National Democracy Day has hinted at the abysmal poverty under which the people are groaning. "One of the great attributes of a democratic society," His Majesty said, "is the right of every citizen to build his own private homestead." One can legitimately ask whether the government can come upto the expectation of His Majesty at this hour of unprecedented economic crisis through which the country is passing. The special economic programme as expected has failed to click and the living condition of the people is going from bad to worse. The people and their problems are simply ignored and in the circumstances it is difficult to believe the government can 'institutionalise a system of public participation in all matters affecting the society and the people in general.' In short, democracy cannot be sustained by a government which is indifferent to the difficulties of the people.

Poor Performance in Food Production

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 23 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Appalling Food Situation"]

[Contd.]

Once a food surplus country, Nepal has now been cadging food from the friendly countries. And regrettably enough, even the food donated by the friendly countries has not been fairly distributed to the needy ones. This only shows how poor the performance of the government has been in the production of food, the most important sector from the point of view of the domestic economy. That this country will be facing a serious food crisis, the situation at present also being as worse as anything, in the not too distant a future is clear from the appalling figure produced by the acting Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Kamal Bhakta Rajbhandari in his working paper recently presented at one of the conferences held in Kathmandu. projection is based on the current price of 250 US dollars per metric ton. The figure can rise to any extent considering the geometrical increase in population and the continued influx of people from across the border. And surprisingly enough, the successive governments that came and went in the past three decades continued to talk about the all-round progress the country is reported to have made. The authorities concerned would not have to be reminded of the fact that the national economy can collapse any time unless serious efforts are made to raise production and make the country self-reliant on food. The population explosion has been blamed for food problem. This is partly true. But the responsibility for the aggravation of the problem is entirely due to the failure of the government to raise the agricultural production.

ADVANTAGES OF SMALL INDUSTRIES DESCRIBED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 21 Mar 83 p 2

[Article by B. N. Acharya]

[Text] It is contended that small industry, because of its inherent limitations, would never be able to compete with big manufacturers commanding sizeable resources both at home and abroad. What is obviously forgotten in this contention is that small business can flourish if it produces goods appropriate for the stage of development of a particular economy says B. N. Acharya.

Capital intensive firms are obliged to operate on a large arena, but small labour intensive firms in less developed economies cover only small sectors and there is maximum use of the most plentiful resource labour.

People working in small units are relatively more happier than those who work in large concerns in the manner of small cogs in a huge machine.

Moreover, large firms because of their infrastructural needs require urbanized settings. In the beginning those firms may provide employment opportunities to the surplus labour in the urban area. But such employment openings in urban area do not solve the problems of the underutilized labour force in the rural areas. Instead, small industries can be scattered throughout the country, opening up employment possibilities to the labour force even in remote areas of the country. The availability of such opportunities would also check the flow of rural job seekers into urban centres.

Decisive

Standardized products for standard demand is the motto of large manufacturers. Their products, the end result of the massive research work of vast laboratories supported by the most up-to-date technologies are meant for those consumers whose needs and linkage are completely standardized. But in a society where the capacity to consume is dictated by the vagaries of monsoon, standardization of demand is rethinkable. Moreover, in a country like Nepal where the nature of the land and such other geophysical factors play a decisive role, consumption demand tends to be quite different from one region to another for one reason or another. Only small firms would be flexible enough to supply a diversity of the desired goods and services under such conditions.

It is true that small industries have limited access to funds and management know-how. But these are not major constraints. The government and financial institutions in the country could play dynamic roles in this regard. Measures like dissemination of knowledge to use insured resources in rural areas, easy availability of "seed money" to start new productive ventures, elementary infrastructural support etc. could all be most effectively brought into operation by the agencies concerned.

Accelerated

Looking back one sees that the highly industrialized countries have a more or less similar background in regard to industrialization. All of them started with small business, in the course of time small enterprises generated further enterprise and new techniques, which, accelerated the momentum of industrialization.

Ultimately, the question is should a less developed country choose the path of small industry or the wider avenues of heavy industrialization? The answer is, obvious, given the capital and other major constraints, our option should be the small industry. It may take us some more time for us to reach the stage of full industrialization, but choosing the "small way", would invite the enthusiastic participation of the masses. The efforts would be more fulfilling and, perhaps, prove in the long run the most effective in achieving the goal of industrialization.

Small industries are not one and the same in every country whether in size, nature or scope.

Sound

The history and background of small and cottage or village industry in our country is quite sound and prospective. What it needs at present is a push for transformation from traditional or premodern to modern firms and from non-factory to factory forms.

Thus, small industry has large scope in Nepal. The prospects of small industries are undeniably bright. Small countries like ours such as Burma, Singapore, Hongkong, Ceylon, South Korea, Taiwan and Afghanistan confirm the idea that small industries are best suited for small agricultural countries.

An impartial appraisal of small industries will prove that small industries in Nepal can provide a strong industrial base for further development provided the necessary infrastructure which is yet to be fully developed.

CSO: 4600/493

SHORTCOMINGS OF SMALL FARMS POINTED OUT

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 23 Mar 83 p 2

[Article by B. Malla]

[Text] One prominent feature of Nepali agriculture is its predominantly small-sized farming structure. Small and the marginal size farm families constitute 64 per cent of the total farm families in the country. The majority of these small farm families are poor with virtually no access to institutional credits and services. The planning process did not match the felt needs of these families. Therefore, one of the critical developmental issues relating to agricultural policy in Nepal is how to raise the incomes of the rural poor-small farmers, landless labourers, the unemployed and their families. B. Malla outlines these issues.

These groups comprise larger proportion of both the total and rural population of the country, they not only constitute the poorest and most deprived segment of Nepali society but also have been largely bypassed by progress and modernisation. Policy measures for augmenting their incomes and productivity need be devised because development cannot have much significance if it overlooks the alleviation of rural poverty.

Issues

Small farmers cannot afford to participate to their full extent in exploiting the potential for productivity gains in agriculture without institutional support responsive to their needs. They are often short of real resources and have relatively less access to medium-term institutional credit seriously limiting their ability to venture on-farm investments and use of modern inputs. They are more vulnerable to risks and hence more alert about innovation of uncertain gains and about decisions the outcome of which is largely dictated by such uncertainties as the favourable monsoon. Deplorably poor access to water or absence of adequate and timely irrigation is another critical constraint putting a serious limit to the benefit coming out of the improved varieties of seed, fertilizers and multiple cropping.

Rigidities

Since the small farmers generally fall in the group of high illiteracy, they tend to be less familiar with crop management practices for improving yields and tend to be ignored by the extension programmes whose agents rarely spend much time with small farmers, who often does not rely on their cropping practices information. One important institutional hurdle in lending to small farmers is collateral. If land is required as collateral, credit becomes much less accessible to small farmers whose right to land is seldom properly recorded and is not always acknowledged. The farmers, tenants have less incentive to push up productivity than those who own land mainly because of the uncertainty of the duration of lease making them less inclined to undertake investment of the farms that do not have a very early pay-off. The small farmers lack the financial or physical capacity to keep their products off the market during peak supply while the traders or others stand to benefit to a great extent.

There is a good deal of potential in the small farm sector for alleviating poverty, reducing under-employment and enhancing agricultural production. Despite those constraints, experiences has shown that with adequate access to basic inputs, small farmers can raise yields as high as those of larger farmers and frequently higher because "the intensity or multiple cropping is, on an average, greater for small than for large farmers". In view of the crop biology there is no reason for yields to change according to size of fields or of farm, many agricultural operations can be performed quite efficiently on a very small scale. Studies have revealed that the value of output per hectare, on an average, is higher on small farms than on large farms.

Programme

In view of small farmer's need of institutional credits, actual need is not to subsidize interest rates but to augment the availability of credits avoiding institutional forms that are inflexible and bureaucratic. All administrative and institutional units related to agricultural development with top-heavy and costly paraphernalia at the centre need to be dismantled and transmitted down.

It is often possible for small farmers to share the services of various inputs by the creation of machinery pools, contract hire, setting up public or cooperative tubewell and turbine systems serving several farms and by group ranching. Small farmers need be extended credit for a package programme covering crop, livestock and horticulture with assured market in order to uplift their level on income. Any programme designed to benefit small farmers must have their involvement in decision making process. Measures to increase off-farm and non-farm rural employment should form an integral part of policy strategy.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA COMMENDED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 24 Mar 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] The successful and smooth completion of the Indo-Nepal trade talks in New Delhi the other day is an important milestone in the commercial relations between the two neighbours. The most notable achievement is, of course, the agreement to extend the trade treaty for five years a treaty which was due to expire today. The transit treaty, which had been negotiated separately since 1978 will be valid for two more years as its time period was for seven years. The sixth inter-governmental committee which deliberated for five days have come up with a concrete and positive programme of action, as was indeed spelt out by the leader of the Nepali delegation the Acting Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies Mr Damodar Prasad Gautam on his return to Kathmandu on Tuesday. Among the other notable gains of these negotiation were that both countries have now agreed to get the export of jute from Nepal to alternate buyers in India. Further, thirty-five Nepali industrial items have been given concessional entry into India, while 15 them will not require Nepali exporters to fill out proforma. Among the manufactured goods listed in this connection are jute products, dairy products, noodles, spaghetti, straw board, oxygen, leather, and solvent extract. Another positive accomplishment was an agreement to review the arrangement made this year with regards to insurance of third country goods in transit through India. The two countries agreed that a review should be made on rebating insurance on such goods and that more insurance companies, including a Nepali one should be allowed to carry out this insurance.

India has also sympathetically agreed to provide further transshipment facilities at Gonda and Katihar near the Nepal India border as well as extending the free-time facilities at certain transshipment points. Formalities for clearing goods across the border customs in the countries have been streamlined and the Indian government has "expressed willingness" to consider the extension of the meter-gauge railway transport from Raxaul in India to Birgunj in Nepal, a route which still is the trade artery between Nepal and India.

The fact that the talks went so smoothly is an indication of the understanding attitude on the part of the Indian government and the consideration it has shown for the development of Indo-Nepal trade. This is a step in the

right direction and could help to ease the balance of payments deficit between Nepal and her southern neighbour, trade which has shown a 40 percent increase, in the past fiscal year. On the question of unauthorised trade both countries have agreed to mutually share information to cooperate to control it another indication of mutually shared appreciation of a common problem. To sum up, therefore, both in tone as well as substance, the new agreement on Nepal-India trade which has been formalized could be seen to auger well for the development and expansion of commercial activity between the two countries which is a very important component of the close and multifaceted relations between the two neighbouring countries.

CSO: 4600/493

PAKISTAN TO CONTINUE BID FOR OIC CHAIRMANSHIP

BK070146 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Pakistan has received encouraging support from a number of member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] for its candidacy for the post of secretary general which falls vacant later this year. This was stated by a foreign office spokesman in Islamabad today.

He described as completely baseless a report published by a Bangladesh daily alleging the existence of an understanding that the government of Pakistan will withdraw its candidate in return for the support of Bangladesh in another multilateral forum. The spokesman said the factual position is that Pakistan had attached great importance to the Organization of Islamic Conference ever since its establishment. It has nominated for the post of secretary general Mr S. Sharifuddin Pirzada, a senior member of the federal cabinet and an eminent and highly qualified person with a long and distinguished experience in international affairs. This demonstrates Pakistan's serious interest in the post which has been communicated to all the members of the OIC. The spokesman made it clear that there is no question of withdrawal of Mr Pirzada's candidacy as a prologue for support to Pakistan in any other forum.

CSO: 4600/504

LEADER SAYS MRD DETERMINED TO RESTORE RULE OF LAW

GF080716 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Apr 83 p 2

[Text] Hyderabad, 1 Apr--The president MRS [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy], Hyderabad, Mr Farooqul Hassan Jeelani, has said that MRD is determined to restore the rule of law.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, he said the people of Pakistan are politically conscious and they knew how to fight for their democratic rights. Mr. Farooqul Hassan Jeelani, who is also district chairman of the defunct Tehrik-e-Istiqal, maintained that the people were being kept in the dark about the revival of the 1959 agreement with America.

He criticised the arrest of workers of the defunct Tehrik-e-Istiqal in Peshawar on 23 March. Mr Jeelani claimed that MRD workers were being harassed and two workers had even been implicated in a dacoity case and when they had been released by the sessions court, they were again implicated in a "false case" under the Hadood Ordinance [Section of Islamic law].

CSO: 4600/504

FACTORS FAVORING LARGER TRADE WITH INDIA DISCUSSED

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Feb 83 p 7

[Article by Sultan Ahmed]

[Text]

FOUR significant new developments favour increasing trade and new areas of economic co-operation between Pakistan and India.

On the political plane, there is the Joint Ministerial Commission agreed on between President Zia-ul-Haq and Mrs. Indira Gandhi to promote larger co-operation, particularly in the economic sphere.

On the economic plane, the substantial devaluation of the Pakistan rupee has made Pakistani goods cheaper for India, while Indian goods have become expensive for Pakistanis. Indians can buy for Rs. 9.97 goods worth Rs. 12.80 to Rs. 13 from Pakistan. That explains the imports of Rs. 601.6 million by Indians from Pakistan in 1981-82 compared to Pakistan's imports from India of Rs. 79 million.

There is increasing interest among the businessmen and industrialists of both countries in enlarging the volume of trade and opening new areas of economic co-operation. Both are now better informed about the needs of each other and the new commercial opportunities they offer. They have established real trade contacts, and trade organizations on both sides are assisting them.

The new 100 per cent export industries in India — 80 in number now with 300 more underway — are free to import their needs from any

where irrespective of India's rigid import restrictions. And they purchased cotton textiles for Rs. 150 million from Pakistan recently.

But between the soaring private sector enthusiasm for larger trade, following the visits of three trade delegations both ways, and the official approach there is a wide gap.

Extreme caution

While the Indian approach is bolder and venturesome, the Pakistani official approach is one of extreme caution, if not of real reluctance.

But the pressure for larger trade is coming now not only from India and the Pakistani businessmen who love to import things from India cheaper than they do from far off countries but also from other sources. In the Third World bloc and Group of 77 the stress is on greater South-South cooperation, particularly on a regional basis. Officials of South Asian states have been meeting together to promote large co-operation bilaterally and collectively among them. And their foreign ministers are to meet later this year to give a fillip to such co-operation. In fact, the efforts are being stepped up to promote larger economic co-operation between South Asia and the richer and rapidly progressing ASEAN states. If Pakistan is not to be defensive at such conferences, it has to work towards larger trade with India in a manner beneficial to both.

While Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan told the 18-member delegation of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, currently touring Pakistan that there is a lack of complementarity between the two economies, that view is not shared by the businessmen and industrialists of the two states who have met each other, exchanged notes and assessed the possibilities of profitable mutual trade. The visits on both sides have helped to dispel a good many fears and suspicions, and provided new incentives, particularly after the landmark agreement on setting up a joint ministerial commission.

Of course, there is a conflict between the interests of the industrialists and importers in Pakistan. While the industrialists seek protection and financial assistance from the state, the importers want to import goods from cheaper sources, sell quick and make larger profits. If some Pakistani industrialists are scared of the cheaper imports from India, that is only part of their fears in regard to imports from any cheap source, including Japan, Brazil, the two Koreas, China, Hong Kong and Singapore. So barring Indian imports does not save Pakistani industries from competition from a score of other sources.

It is also relevant to ask why the Pakistani consumers cannot benefit by imports from the cheapest and nearest source even when they

would reach them after the payment of very heavy import duties and sales tax. The same consideration is barring the U.S. from stopping or officially reducing the number of cheaper Japanese cars imported even when over 11 million workers are unemployed there. The recent strong advice of Industries Minister Elahi Bux Soomro to the Pakistani industries to stand up and face competition instead of squirming for protection all the time is really very relevant here.

For sometime in the past the balance of trade was in favour of India; but the pattern has changed dramatically since then. Following the three-year trade agreement signed in 1975 the balance of trade was in favour of Pakistan in the first year to the extent of Rs. 136.8 million, while the imports from India were only Rs. 12.7 million. But after private trade between them was allowed Pakistan had a trade deficit of Rs. 234.5 million in 1976-77 and Rs. 124 million in the following year. Private trading was abruptly stopped by Pakistan.

But since then there have been large surpluses in favour of Pakistan — Rs 349 million in 1979-80, Rs. 940 million in 1980-81 and Rs. 521.6 million last year. During these years Pakistan's imports from India have been very small, and according to the Finance Minister there were no imports at all in 1980-81.

Discrepancies

There appear to be some serious discrepancies in the official figures for trade with India. While the Pakistan Economic Survey says that exports to India in 1980-81 were of Rs. 962 million, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq told the Majlis-e-Shoora on Sunday they were only of Rs. 48.35 million. And while he said

that there were no imports from India by Pakistan in that year, the Economic Survey talks of Rs. 21.9 million worth of imports. Clearly the situation needs clarification as these are not the only figures affected.

While the leader of the Delhi, Punjab and Haryana Chamber of Commerce delegation, Mr. Virendra Punj, was effusive while in Pakistan in November last, Mr. A.K. Jain, who leads the present higher level delegation is restrained and realistic. He admits the Indian industry came up only because of the protection and assistance extended to it by the government. In the same manner, India would not want to export anything that would hurt Pakistan's industry. But instead of having a list of 40 items or more which could be imported from India through TCP he wants a negative list of items which could not be imported from India. All other items should be tradeable.

The Indian contention is that Pakistan's import policy vis-a-vis India is discriminatory or discretionary, while India's policy is non-discriminatory. What other countries can export to India, Pakistan too can. But the problem often is Pakistan's higher production cost, which has been reduced to an extent export-wise by the 22 per cent devaluation of the rupee.

What Mr. Jain seeks is a modest increase in two-way trade from the current Rs. 1,000 million to Rs. 5,000 million in three years. That is not a very large sum judged by the fact that India's imports are now Rs. 135,000 million and Pakistan's imports about Rs. 60,000 million.

Land routes

Businessmen on both sides also feel that trade between them cannot increase sizeably unless that

passes through the land routes as through Wagah and Jodhpur instead of all the goods being routed via Karachi and Bombay, as is happening now. Sea-borne exports make goods too costly for people upcountry in both the states, says Mr. Jain.

They also seek direct private trade instead of even the 40 items permitted to be imported from India to be routed through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan. Judging by the comments of Mr. Ghulam Ishaq the government is not ready to permit direct private trade now, although the pattern of trade has swung in favour of Pakistan in a big way.

But India wants more than larger trade. It seeks joint enterprises in Pakistan with Indian collaboration, and joint enterprises in other countries as well, particularly the Gulf and Middle East. They want joint tendering for projects in the Gulf and Middle East instead of the two competing with each other and losing them to third countries. But the Finance Minister has only agreed to consider joint projects in Pakistan on a case-by-case basis. India has now 226 joint projects abroad, and 137 of them are in production.

Indians get excited when they see Pakistan's Investment Schedule. They say they could sell a great deal of equipment cheap to Pakistani investors. The prospects of India being able to supply a good deal of equipment for the sixth five-year plan too is alluring to them.

Welcoming the Indian delegation Mr. Yusuf Zia, President of the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the two states together had a population of just under 20 per cent of the world's. But the volume of trade between them is so infinitesimally small that a distinct change has to come about in a way that is truly beneficial to both.

MRS NASIM WALI ADDRESSES BAR ASSOCIATION

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Feb 83 p 10

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Feb 23: Begum Nasim Wali Khan, Vice-President of the defunct National Democratic Party, has said that mere slogan-mongering and adoption of resolutions cannot change the destiny of the nation.

She was addressing a Mardan District Bar Association reception, which was originally arranged in the honour of her husband Khan Abdul Wali Khan who could not reach there.

She said religion was not a point of dispute in the prevailing time since all of us were Muslims. The real problem was that of basic human rights which all along have been denied to Pakistani masses under successive government since independence although they were available to the people even during British Raj.

"It is because of our patriotism," she said, "that we refrain from resorting to extreme measures in view of the sensitive situation. Otherwise this nation had gone through many successful struggles."

Begum Wali said it was incumbent upon the people, therefore, to get united to face the realities of the time and to combat the dangers ahead. "We have all along been struggling for the basic human rights."

She said that all public institutions were in abeyance and neither parliament nor the powers of judiciary were there.

Paying rich tributes to the lawyers' community, she said the lawyers had always been at the forefront of peoples struggle and they were duty bound to guide the people towards the right path.—
PPI

CSO: 4600/411

WALI KHAN NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER MARDAN

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Feb 83 p 10

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Feb 23: Khan Abdul Wali Khan, who was served with orders of externment for one month from the jurisdiction of Mardan District last night, today defied the orders and tried to enter the city to address a District Bar Association gathering.

A police party headed by a magistrate stopped Wali Khan some three miles from Mardan this morning asking him to proceed no farther.

Wali Khan said he would rather defy the orders and when the policemen told him that they were taking him back to his home Wali Khan resisted.

The police party however took him along, detaining him till the end of Bar meetings and then dropped him at his residence Wali Bagh, Charsadda, at about 1 p.m.

The Bar Association was addressed by his wife, Begum Nasim Wali in his absence.—PPI

CSO: 4600/411

TRADE PROTOCOL WITH BULGARIA SIGNED

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 28: Pakistan and Bulgaria on Monday signed a commodity exchange protocol involving a turn over of 72 million dollars.

The protocol was signed here after a week-long deliberations between the seven-member trade delegation from Bulgaria and the Commerce Ministry. Mr Tawfiq Fehmi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Mr Nicholai Nenov, Director-General of Bulgaria, Ministry of Foreign Trade, signed the protocol on behalf of their respective Governments.

Under the protocol, Pakistan will export to Bulgaria raw cotton, cotton yarn, cotton textiles, ready made garments, finished leather and leather goods worth 36 million dollar against imports of pesticides, fertilisers, electric equipment, tools and workshop equipment, electro and diesel forklift, trucks, industrial electronic, telecommunications equipment, sheet and plate glass and electric fluorescent tubes of equivalent value from Bulgaria.

The new protocol is a tangible improvement in Pak-Bulgaria trade relations registering 36 per cent increase over the previous protocol which envisaged exchange of commodities worth 53 million dollars--26.5 million each way.

Before the signing ceremony, the leader of the Bulgarian delegation decorated the Commerce Secretary with the Jubilee Order of People's Republic of Bulgaria on behalf of the State Council in recognition of his efforts for the promotion of cooperation between the two countries.--APP

CSO: 4600/411

STUDENT SCUFFLE: THREE GIRLS INJURED IN LAHORE

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, March 1: Three girl students of the Punjab University were injured in a scuffle on The Mall outside the old campus today.

Two of them belonged to the Punjab University Students Alliance while the third was from Islami Jamiat-i-Tulba.

The two sides later accused each other of resorting to violence. According to a complaint lodged with the Old Anarkali police, complainant Farhat Anwar said she was standing on The Mall bus stop, outside the old campus, when five students of the Jamiat came to her and manhandled her and her classmate and as a result, she became unconscious.

Farhat Anwar also identified the accused.

The Alliance students at a Press conference accused the university authorities of siding with the Jamiat. They also went to the Governor House to apprise the Governor of their problems.

They, however, could not see the Governor, but met other officials.

Their demands include replacement of all nominated office-bearers of the Discipline Committee of the Punjab University and ban on entry on all outsiders.

The Alliance has made a call for a strike for March 2 which they intend to continue till their 9-point charter of demand was accepted.

On the other hand, Nighat Hashmi, the Jamiat student, who was also injured in the scuffle, said she was attacked by five students of the Alliance who, she alleged, beat her.

She also identified the accused girls.

Twenty-five teachers of the Punjab University have sought an interview with the Governor to apprise him of the situation on the campus.

Meanwhile, the boycott of Economics Department teachers continued for the fourth day today.

The teachers of Political Science Department also joined the boycott today. They said they would continue it till stern action was taken against the 'accused student.'

CSO: 4600/412

MORE LEADERS HELD IN NWFP

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

PESHAWAR, March 1: More arrests of political leaders have been made in the NWFP and the detained leaders have been transferred to Haripur Jail.

This is the second round-up by the provincial police — the first having been effected two days ago in which Ghulam Ahmad Bilour of the defunct NDP and Aftab Sherpao and Nasirullah Khan Babar of the defunct PPP were arrested.

Those arrested yesterday are Abdul Khaliq Khan, provincial President of defunct NDP and barrister Masood Kausar of defunct PPP. Mr Abdul Khaliq Khan was arrested in his village in Mardan while Barrister Masood Kausar was taken into custody at Kohat.

According to information available Mohammad Hanif Khan, a former Speaker of the NWFP Assembly, has also been arrested from his residence in the University Town here.

The arrests have been made under Section 3 MPO and they have been detained for one month.

It is learnt that the arrests have been made to prevent these leaders from visiting southern districts of the province where they intended to reorganise the MRD and participate in the Mufti Mahmud Conference which was scheduled to start, today at Dera Ismail Khan. The District Magistrate, Dera Ismail Khan has accorded permission to hold the Mufti Mahmud Conference in village Abdul Khalil, the home village of the late Mufti Mahmud on March 1 and 2.

Meanwhile, the District Magistrate has prohibited gathering of five or more persons, holding of public meeting, raising of slogans and indulging in activities which may create harassment in public or disturb communal harmony under Section 144 in the district.

CSO: 4600/412

MINISTER SAYS COUNTRY WILL REMAIN ALERT TO ISRAELI THREATS

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 1

[Excerpt]

ISLAMABAD, March 1: Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, said here today that Pakistan would always remain alert and do everything possible to safeguard its territorial integrity.

The Minister was making a statement in the Majlis-i-Shoora on a short notice question by Mr Taj Mohammad Khanzada and the adjournment motions moved by Hafiz Mohammad Taqi, Rao Mansab Ali Khan, Mr Zain Noorani and Mr Taj Mohammad Khanzada seeking to invite attention of the Government about a Press interview of the former Israeli Defence Minister, Gen Shimon Peres, to an Italian cor-

respondent in which threats were held out to attack Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and other Muslim and African countries.

He said Pakistan had received threats from Israeli leaders from "Ben Gurion to Begin" for its righteous stand against Israeli policies of expansionism, aggression and illegal occupation of Arab lands and Jerusalem.

Mr Pirzada said the Government had asked its embassy in Rome to send an authentic text of the interview. He said that till then Pakistan had reserved its right to make comment. The members did not press the motion after the statement of the Law Minister.

CSO: 4600/412

COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA, WAPDA INCREASING

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 3

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, March 1: An executive body meeting of the defunct Qaumi Mahaz-e-Azadi, Rawalpindi, was held under the presidentship of Mr Mohammad Iqbal, MRD convener of Rawalpindi for the current month, at his residence here.

The meeting adopted several resolutions urging the Government to lift ban on political activities.

The meeting called for restoration of democratic process.

It said that any amendment in the 1973 Constitution will not be acceptable to the masses.

It demanded immediate elections and transfer of power to the elected representatives.

The meeting demanded release of all political leaders and workers —PPI.

CSO: 4600/412

WORLD BANK LOAN FOR LAHORE UPLIFT APPROVED

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

LAHORE, March 1: The World Bank has finally approved a loan amounting to Rs 29 crore for Lahore development schemes, including grace period. He said the LDC is planning to construct ten thousand low cost houses at Gujjarpara.

The loan is to be utilised by three agencies, Lahore Development Authority, Lahore Municipal Corporation and House Building Finance Corporation.

Disclosing this in an interview with 'PPI', Maj.-Gen. (Retd.) Muhammad Hussain Ansari, Director General, LDA, on his return from Washington after talks with World Bank officials, he said Rs three crore will be utilised by the Municipal Corporation for improving street lights and the drainage system while the Development Authority will spend its share of Rs nine crore on the development of the walled city. The remaining amount of the Rs seventeen crore will be distributed by the House Building Finance Corporation as loans for new constructions as well as for repair purposes.

He said that the World Bank loan will be repaid on the same terms and conditions as already agreed to with the Government of Pakistan,

Cheap plots

Gen. Ansari said that 4,000 out of the total 10,000 plots will be given to those persons whose monthly salaries fall below Rs one thousand. The plots will measure three marlas at the rate of total price of Rs 2,100.

He said that the remaining plots will be given, according to the existing quota system to various sections of people and their price would also be lower than the price LDA was charging in its other schemes.

He said that the money to be recovered from these schemes will be placed as a revolving fund and would be spent on similar schemes.

Maj.-Gen. (Retd.) Ansari said that the LDA has included two traffic improvement scheme in the development programme and plans to spend Rs one crore on them. With their execution the city's traffic system will improve to a "great extent", he added.—PPI

BRITISH PARLIAMENT MEMBER CALLS FOR REFUGEE AID

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 6

[Article by Yehia Syed]

[Text]

LONDON, Feb 11: In spite of 2.83 million registered refugees, with 2.15 million living in NWFP alone — there is 'almost no friction between the local Pakistanis and the Afghan refugees', said Lord Cranbourne, MP, while speaking on Wednesday at the Pakistan Society at the House of Common. This, he added, shows how effective the administration in Pakistan is in refugee camps.

He said 'it is an explosive and sensitive situation no doubt, but the Government of Pakistan and the people are handling it with remarkable tact'. "I was overwhelmed by the compassion Pakistan Government and the people were showing for the refugees", he added.

Lord Cranbourne said he was highly impressed by the morale of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and by the desire of those refugees to free their country from foreign domination.

Russian ambitions in Afghanistan, Lord Cranbourne said, is to absorb, if not fully than at least some parts of Afghanistan into the expanding circle of Soviet Union. Soviet ambitions in Afghanistan, added, posed a grave danger to Pakistan which is trying to find a peaceful and honourable solution of the problem through UN. But he

doubted the success of the UN efforts.

The influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan was "the greatest clamity" of today, which, he said, was a challenge to the conscience of the Free World. He called for greater international help for the Afghanistan refugees through UN. He noted that half of the total expenditure on Afghan refugees is being borne by Pakistan Government from her own resources.

The Chairman of the meeting, Sir Frederick Benzot disclosed that while during the past three years some 15,000 Soviet troops have been killed, nearly 100,000 Afghan freedom-fighters have also died fighting the Soviet troops. He said that British Government should increase its contribution.

The Minister (Information) at the Pakistan Embassy, Qutbuddin Aziz, said that while Pakistan is bearing 50 per cent of Rs 15 million that are daily spent on the Afghan refugees, Pakistan has fully cooperated with the UN to find a solution to the problem so that the refugees could go back to their homes soon. He said that Pakistan is steadfast on the four principles, which are accepted by the Soviet Union. He said a peaceful and honourable solution can be found for the Afghan problem.

HEATED ARGUMENTS IN SHOORA OVER EVIDENCE LAW

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 12

[Article by Anis Mirza]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 1: The Federal Council building, tucked in the Potohar valley, was a landscape of mountain mist and heavy rain. A big contingent of armed police guarded the building, in rain-proof hoods and jackets. Inside the auditorium, attendance was pretty meagre. Many of the members, worn out by the long four week session, had left for their destinations. However, in the general discussion on the revised draft of the Law of Evidence, several lawyers and the Ulema took up diagonally opposite postures. But despite the heated arguments, there were no major skirmishes. From the galleries, foreign diplomats, foreign correspondents, and women administrators listened with interest.

The debate was initiated by Maulana Mohammad Shafi Okarvi. At the outset, he made it clear that the draft being discussed could not be identified as an Islamic Law of Evidence. There was no provision in Islam for women witnesses in adultery cases, he argued. "God has put less responsibility on women. How can you expect women to appear in court and detail an adultery case?", Maulana Okarvi asked? In Hudood and Qisas cases, such as murder and drinking, he said no woman could be a witness. The Ulema gave Maulana Okarvi a warm applause.

Allama Mustafa Al-Azhari, Qari Saeedur Rahman, Qazi Abdul Latif and Maulana Samiul Haq put forward similar arguments, saying that the Islamic Law of Evidence had nothing in common with the 1872 Evidence Act of British India.

Then rising suddenly from the aisles, Allama Syed Mohammad Razi caused a considerable stir. He said he did not agree with the interpretations of the Ulema. Allama Razi said the Holy Quran was very clear on women's rights and men and women had equal rights both in the eyes of God and in Islamic law. In the matter of prayers, politics, justice, business and human rights, Islam had granted complete equality and freedom to women. Allama Razi's voice echoed in the hall: "A Muslim woman is entitled to be the head of a state. I disagree with the Ulema who gave a Fatwa against Miss Fatima Jinnah. Remember Hazrat Sulaiman accepted Hazrat Bilquis as the head of a kingdom."

Two lawyers also spoke with singular animation. Iqbal Ahmad Khan said the draft before the House was a tribute to the exhaustive and researched legal document produced by the Shoora's Select Committee. Pointing to Article 227 of the 1973 Constitution, which was protected by Article 2 of the Provisional Constitutional Order, Mr Iqbal said the Islamic Ideology Council's report on evidence was, in fact, outside the jurisdiction of the IIC. Warning the members of the Shoora, the lawyer from Lahore argued that not only the Islamic world but Western jurists also were reviewing Pakistan's first attempt to codify Islamic laws.

Lawyers Shafiq Ahmad Butt from Faisalabad, called the Draft Qanun-i-Shahadat Ordinance, 1983, a restructured version of the law of 1872, credit for which went to the House Select Committee and

its Chairman. The Holy Quran, he said, did not differentiate between the rights of male and female witnesses. At eight places, in the Holy Quran, the evidence of women had been mentioned clearly: divorce, period of widowhood, will, adultery, right of orphans, Qazai and debt, and loan. In a loud voice he argued: "In this age you cannot relegate Muslim women to an inferior status and deny them their fundamental rights."

Karachi social worker Qamar Isphahani's speech was forthright and clear. She quoted profusely from Allama Yusuf Ali's Quranic translation, and said there was no denial of equal rights to Muslim women. She drew a comparison of the status of women in Roman, Greek, Hindu and Islamic laws. Claps were heard when Begum Isphahani added: "Let us not deny Muslim women justice at the altar of the State."

Fish farmer Syed Nusrat Ali Shah argued that when laws were being codified, the process was always evolutionary. "We cannot ignore the basic fundamental rights of Pakistani women who constitute 50 per cent of the population." There was a loud applause.

Dr Amina Ashraf charged that a group was deliberately fanning the women's rights issue, when in fact there was nothing against women in the draft of the Law of Evidence. She said that in order to implement the Islamic system there should be coordination between the judiciary and the administration. Dr Nasrin Maqbul appealed to the Ulema to take a generous and sympathetic view on the status of women.

SIND CABINET DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 12

[Text]

The Provincial Cabinet met yesterday under the chairmanship of the Sind Governor, Lt-Gen S.M. Abbasi, and reviewed the implementation of ADP 1982-83 for the period July-December, 1982, says an official handout.

The physical and financial performance was appraised and found encouraging.

Against a norm of 30 per cent by December, 1981, 35 per cent of the allocation for 82-83 was utilised.

In the first half of the current financial year, Rs. 453 million were utilised as compared to Rs. 412 million in the corresponding period in 1981-82.

Sectors like Agriculture, Education and Health which in the past were relatively slow in the first half of the year showed a marked improvement this year.

To expedite the approval of the development schemes, the Cabinet decided to set up a committee to recommend measures for streamlining the system for identification, preparation, and ap-

proval of schemes and release of funds.

The Cabinet also reviewed the position of individual schemes, and instructions were given by the Governor for the removal of bottlenecks, thus improving the pace of implementation.

The Cabinet decided to allocate 30 million for an ongoing road in Karachi, namely, Star Gate-Landhi-Pipri Highway; Rs. 7 million for emergent repairs and strengthening of the gates of Sukkur Barrage, work on which has already begun. An additional provision of Rs 3.5 million was sanctioned as grant-in-aid for local bodies. Besides, Rs. 2.5 million were sanctioned for Sind Road Transport Corporation to augment the fleet of buses. The Cabinet also gave approval for establishment of a Coronary Care Unit in Sukkur and accorded post-facto sanction to the construction of a bridge on Dadu Canal to ensure smooth flow of heavy traffic through the recently completed Dadu-Moro

bridge. A scheme for planting trees and land-scaping in the Mehran University was also cleared for implementation.

The Cabinet also reviewed and expressed satisfaction over the pace of implementation of the Special Priority Programme launched under the directives of the Federal Government. The programme encompasses primary education, communication, potable water supply and farm-to-market roads.

The non-development budget was also reviewed and the Cabinet decided that a comprehensive picture be put up by the end of April, 1983.

The Governor directed the Administrative departments to see that no ADP provisions are allowed to lapse and maximum efforts are undertaken to complete the projects in time to avoid cost escalation so that benefits are speedily provided to public.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Ministers, Secretaries of nation-building departments

CSO: 4600/412

SHIPPING CORPORATION HOPES TO RECOVER LOSSES

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 23 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] The Chairman of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), Rear-Admiral A. W. Bhombal said in Karachi yesterday that the shipping market is expected to improve during the current year and thus the loss of over Rs. 8 crore suffered by the Corporation in 1981-82 would be recovered.

Talking to newsmen at his office, the PNSC chief said that due to severe slump in the shipping industry, the owners of dry cargo vessels were forced into a situation of idle surplus shipping.

He said that at present 1,290 vessels are laid up all over the world with gross registered 77 million tonnage. PNSC was also in the line and it had to face the situation created by much talked of international recession in trade.

To a question, Bhombal said that the Government had been asked to take such steps as would ensure that the unutilised space in the PNSC vessels is used by shippers. This is the way to meet the situation and overcome the losses.

He gave the facts and figures about the tremendous growth the PNSC had made during the last three years with increase in tonnage, revenue earnings, general cargo lifting and its share in Pakistan trade.

APP adds:

A PNSC chief a number of steps are being contemplated by the PNSC to meet the adverse effects of the current global recession, which has resulted in a 30-50 per cent drop in international freight rates over the past two years. [As published]

Bhombal said present international dry cargo freight rates had plummeted to below the December, 1978 level, sharply cutting into the revenues earned by both national and private shipping lines the world over.

This drop in freight rates was coupled with an 8.2 per cent increase in the number of ships on the world maritime trade scene, while on the other hand the growth in global cargo movements had only risen by 1.17 per cent over the past two years.

Rear-Admiral Bhombal said these factors had led to cut-throat competition among both private lines and national flag carriers for the available cargo, and the overall result could be termed "the worst crisis in shipping history".

He said it was against this background that the recent performance of the PNSC had to be assessed, especially keeping in mind that the national flag carrier operated on a purely commercial basis, without any government support, subsidies or rebates.

He said the annual revenues earned by the PNSC rose from Rs. 108 crore in 1979-80 to Rs. 144 crore in 1980-81 and Rs. 166 crore in 1981-82.

During these same three years, the PNSC's share in Pakistani freight trade had climbed 22 per cent in 1979-80 to 26 per cent in 1980-81 and 30 per cent in 1981-82.

Noting that the average international general cargo freight rates had dropped from 89 U.S. dollars per ton in July-December, 1981, to 70 dollars in July-December, 1982, he said in order to maximise its earnings, the PNSC had increased both the frequency of its sailings and the total amount of cargo lifted (which rose from 1.8 million tons in 1979-80 to 2.2 million tons in 1980-81 and 2.4 million tons in 1981-82).

Bhombal said the bulk/freight rates had registered an over 50 per cent drop on the international scene (from about 45 U.S. dollars per ton in 1980, 20 dollars in 1982) that it had become too uneconomical to compete for this type of cargo.

He said while in 1980-81 the PNSC had earned a profit of Rs. 3.2 crore, in 1981-82 this had been turned into a Rs. 8.3 crore loss due to the adverse effects of the global recession.

CSO: 4600/410

MICRO-CHIP CENTER TO START WORKING THIS YEAR

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 23 Feb 83 p 8

[Article by Sikander Hayat]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 22: Asia's most advanced silicon micro-chip centre, now being set up in the Capital's Industrial Area, will begin experimental production towards the end of the current year.

The equipment, said to be the latest and second only to a couple of such outfits in United States and Europe, for the Pakistani Silicon Technology Development Centre has already been purchased and will be arriving here soon, it is reliably learnt.

When all the technical facilities at the centre become operational, the centre will carry out extraction and purification of poly-silicon from quartz and silica sands for solar-grade and micro-chip purities and manufacture of single crystal wafers to produce photovoltaic cells and solid state devices.

The centre will also develop other routes of silicon technology such as "ribbon technology", polycrystalline, heterojunction and amorphous technology with a view to bringing down the per watt solar energy cost which is now higher than that of other sources of energy.

The main objective of this centre is to acquire silicon technology and develop indigenous skill, information, and R and D facilities to support the production of silicon micro-chips, silicon semiconductor electronics, and silicon-based plastics. Major task before the centre, however, will be the production of solar cells with a view to providing sun-powered energy for the remote and rural areas.

Since the Government wants the private sector to enter the silicon technology, specially in the production of photovoltaic cells, the centre will restrict itself to the installation of pilot projects for the guidance and assistance of the industrial investors. A number of foreign investors have shown persistent enthusiasm to invest in Pakistan in this sector, but have failed to get matching response because Pakistan is interested more in the transfer of technology than being used as a supplier of the raw material which is abundantly available in this country.

Pakistani Silicon Technology Development Centre is the first of the five centres being set up by the United Nations in the de-

veloping countries. At its completion by the end of 1983 it will have cost about five million dollars. The suppliers of the equipment are also training Pakistani engineers who are expected to run the centre without foreign help.

Three-fourth of Pakistan's 45000 villages presently have no electric power, and can be energized with solar power, provided it is economically feasible. The current cost of 7 dollars per watt is expected to come down to about 3 dollar a watt by 1985, when it will be the same as that of fossil fuels.

So far only one village, Mammela, 100 kilometers south-west of here has been put on solar power system, besides a few solar irrigation pumps given to the farmers by the ADBP.

Silicon technology experts are of the view that in view of billions of dollars being spent on research in this subject, per watt cost of solar power will be less than a dollar by 1990. They draw their optimism from the fact that per watt solar cost has come down from 500 dollars in 1960 to 60 dollars in 1973 to 7 dollars in 1983.

AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL SIGNS AGREEMENT

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 24 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 23: An agreement between Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, for cooperation in the operation of Pakistan station, Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control was signed here, today.

Dr Amir Muhammed, Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and Dr F. D. Bennet, Director, Commonwealth-Institute of Biological Control, West Indies, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective departments, says a PARC press release.

Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control (Pakistan station) was established with mutual cooperation of the Government of Pakistan and the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau. Consequently, upon withdrawal of Pakistan from the

Commonwealth, operational difficulties were faced for implementation of this station.

The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council in collaboration with the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau under a memorandum of understanding has constituted an executive committee with representative as its chairman to regulate the functions of the station.

The station is responsible for evaluation of locally existing natural enemies of the crop pests, including insects and weeds and their application on mass scale to reduce the economic losses caused. The station will continue getting technical assistance in the form of experts, training, natural enemies of pests and literature from the Commonwealth Institute on Biological Control Trinidad (hq) and its stations world over.—APP.

CSO: 4600/410

OPPOSITION VOICED TO A SEPARATE STEEL MINISTRY

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 24 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

The proposal to set up a separate Ministry of Steel is indicative of the chronic tendency of the people in authority who do not let slip any opportunity to increase the size and power of bureaucracy. Even when some measures meant primarily to cut down the size of the bureaucracy, were taken under pressure, these were circumvented in such a way that the size of every other thing was reduced but that of bureaucracy. What happened in 1978 and 1979 when the present Government launched a programme to reduce the number of corporations which had resembled a mushroom growth? It was implemented in such a way that the size of the bureaucracy remained intact. On the contrary, in course of time, mergers were effected, new committees boards, commissions etc., cropped up wherein those who had lost nothing but some of

their perquisites, were absorbed and all other benefits were thus restored. The net result of the entire exercise was nil. However, those who had 'encroached' upon the bureaucratic domain in the garb of technocrats, were relieved of their positions. The exercise, as a matter of fact, helped the bureaucracy to 'purify' itself from the pollution caused by the 'outsiders'. Despite repeated urgings from all saner elements in society to resort to retrenchment as an unpleasant operation for the speedy revival of the economy, nothing was done in this regard. Consequently, the very purpose of winding up or merging different corporations was totally defeated. Some of these institutions which were doing comparatively better, were overstaffed and, ultimately their efficiency was also adversely affected.

As regards the existing ministerial set-up, there is

already a lot of duplication in it. Portfolios which in the past were handled by one or two ministries are being looked after by numerous ministries and divisions. The previous regime, after expanding the public sector, had created several new ministries. When the present regime took over, it only wound up one ministry, while the rest of the ministries and divisions were kept intact. The Ministry which was wound up was that of Agrarian Management while in the presence of the Ministry of Industries, a separate Ministry of Production is being maintained. The main responsibility of this Ministry, as far as we understand, is to look after the public sector industrial organisations while all other public sector organisations, are the responsibility of various other ministries. The

Ghee Corporation of Pakistan is the responsibility of the Ministry of Industries, whereas the Cotton Export Corporation, the Rice Export Corporation of Pakistan, the Trading Corporation of Pakistan, are under the Ministry of Commerce. As such, the rule that all the industrial units of the public sector are under the Production Ministry, is also not totally correct. Similarly, port, shipping, transport, are the responsibility of the Communication Ministry, the National Logistics Cell is under the charge of the Production Ministry. Is it not duplication?

The question arises: Can we afford such a lavish

ministerial set-up? What we need is the reorganisation of Government machinery. There is wide room for merging various ministries instead of creating new ones. No doubt, we are entering the steel age now. It is, of course, a great event and the organisation which is making it possible, is also a great organisation. We have a big corporation which is setting up the steel mill and the corporation is under the Ministry of Production. Either this arrangement should be retained or a better alternative is to put the steel mill and all other responsibilities of the Ministry of Production under

the Ministry of Industries minus the logistic cell which can either be transferred to the Ministry of Defence or be given to the Ministry of Communication. In short, we see no good in the proposal for setting up a new ministry on the pretext of looking after the steel industry and would suggest the reorganisation of the existing set-up so as to do away with the duplication of work and wasteful expenditure. Economy in expenditure is the prime need of the hour. The objective can effectively be achieved if such an exercise is undertaken without any loss of time.

ARAB INVESTMENT IN SIX PROJECTS SAID IMMINENT

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 26 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Anwar Rajani]

[Text]

Petro-dollar investment from the Middle East including Saudi Arabia in six industrial projects in Pakistan seems to be imminent in the near future.

The projects include pharmaceuticals, tin plates, downstream units of Pakistan Steel and Chemicals.

Feasibility reports of these projects have been prepared by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and have been sent in advance to three countries namely Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

The Federation has sponsored a five-member team which will visit these countries in the second half of the next month and invite the prospective investors to come and participate in these projects on the joint venture basis.

Yousuf Zia, President of the Federation who will lead the team, yesterday said that investment in the six projects is quite possible and the response from these countries has been very encouraging. He said Chairman of Investment Advisory Centre of Pakistan Reza H. Sayed has also been included in the team.

He said that all the projects proposed for investment are large concerns involving investment of not less than Rs. 60 crore.

There is a big scope of investment in the field of chemicals industries. The projects include polyester fibre, sulphuric acid, citric acid, bleaching powder, calcium carbide, bisce rayon, fibre glass, caustic soda etc.

The tin plate industry is badly needed as at present tin plate is not produced in Pakistan and entire demand is met through imports.

USO: 4600/410

STATE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH EXAMINED; PRACTICAL UTILIZATION STRESSED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 26 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

It is, indeed, regrettable that the industrialists in our country have not yet realised the importance of research for development. Undoubtedly, it is a capital intensive affair, but the benefits of such activities are bound not only to return the heavy expenses incurred but also to increase future profits. This, of course, takes time to materialise. Unfortunately, investment on research has been regarded as something unproductive. Besides, whatever funds were available with the investors, they preferred to put them in such ventures as could yield quick returns. They did not take a long term view while launching new projects. This also explains the almost total absence of heavy or capital goods industry in the country in the private sector. However, with the passage of time and with the establishment of the steel mill, one can discern some change in

attitude of the investors. They can now foresee the benefits of heavy engineering industry and have started showing some interest in this field.

Apart from that, the concessions being granted by the Government for setting up engineering industries, particularly downstream projects of the Pakistan Steel, are also attracting the investors. But the investment in R & D, that is research and development is still not forthcoming.

As pointed out earlier, industrial research is capital intensive and long gestation investment. As such we do admit that it would not be possible for every industrial enterprise, to set up R & D unit separately. They can, however, pool resources and set up common research units for particular fields of industry. Thus the expenses on such projects would be very small for individual en-

terprises while the benefits of researches would go to all of them. Such an arrangement would also help in creating a closer liaison between industry and other research institutions in the goods industry in the private country. At the moment one of the major difficulties in popularising the new processes discovered or evolved through researches undertaken either in the universities or in the specialised research institutions, is the absence of any coordination between them.

Addressing a radio press conference the other day, Dr. Arshad Ali Beg, Director, Karachi Laboratories of the PCSIR, disclosed that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research had developed as many as 300 industrial processes over the last 30 years. But the question is: Why is the impact of these processes not seen in the national economy so far? Dr. Beg's lamentation over

the absence of integration of scientific development with the national industrial and economic planning, provides an explanation for this. As such, it would not be very wrong to say that the money invested in the researches so far has gone down the drain. If the new processes suited our peculiar conditions and were commercially feasible, why has the industry failed to adopt them? It may be due to lack of publicity or the absence of initiative on the part of the researchers to convince industry of the results of their researches. Had they done that and thus tried to overcome the difficulty of lack coordination or integration, we are sure that they

would have succeeded in introducing many of their processes commercially by now. As far as we know, some processes evolved by the council are already in use by certain industries in the country. We do realise that it is too much to expect from the researchers to involve themselves in the marketing of their researches. But in the peculiar circumstances existing here, they should have taken the initiative. Commercial utilisation of their discoveries would also have given them a lot of professional satisfaction. At this stage while urging the relevant organisations to create a liaison between the research institutions, universities and industry, we would

ask the PCSIR also to go out, instead of waiting for others to do their job, and organise a publicity cum education of its own for the industrial community. We are glad to learn that the PCSIR has signed a contract for the marketing of a cheap beverage to be produced on the basis of a formula developed by it. We are also happy to know that the PCSIR has already started working on the development of alternative sources of energy which at the moment is the most urgent problem of the country. We wish it every success in its new project and hope that the work in this field would be expedited and the results would be applied, without any delay.

CSO: 4600/410

CINEMA HOUSES STRIKE CALLED OFF

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Feb 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 23. The representatives of film industry had a meeting with the Federal Minister and officials here today and discussed their problems with them. The meeting took various far-reaching decisions with a view to promote the film industry in the country, including uniformity in cinema ticket rates and import of foreign films by distributors under certain conditions. The representatives of films decided to call off the strike immediately.

Opening the meeting Mr Niaz Mohammad Arbab, Minister for Culture, said that Government was keen to see Pakistani film industry flourish and every possible step will be taken for this purpose.

The representatives of Pakistan Film Exhibitors Association, Film Producers Association and Film Distributors Association held separate meetings with the Minister and officials and explained their respective points of view.

The representatives unanimously supported the present film censorship policy and expressed their appreciation for the steps being taken by the Government to curb obscenity and violence in the films.

The meeting decided to have a representative of the Distributors Association on the Censor Boards in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi.

It was also decided that film censor certificate will henceforth be valid for 10 years, as demanded

by the representative of the film industry.

The meeting decided to bring uniformity in the rate of cinema tickets in all provinces. The Government of the Punjab agreed to reduce its entertainment tax from 150 per cent to 100 per cent which is in conformity with entertainment tax in Sind and NWFP.

In the province of Punjab the ticket rate has been fixed from Rs. 2 to 12. The representatives were ~~worried~~ that ~~now when entertainment tax has been reduced and ticket rates fixed~~, the Government would take very strict action on overcharging on tickets.

The representatives were informed that the cinemas were already being charged industrial rates for electricity. The representative of the Ministry of Water and Power however, advised them to bring to the notice of WAPDA authorities, if there was any discrepancy in the electricity rates.

The question of film import and their distribution through the NAFDEC was also discussed. The Managing Director of NAFDEC explained various aspects pertaining to the import and distribution of foreign films.

It was decided that under private sector investment scheme, import of foreign films will be allowed under the same terms and conditions as applicable to the agents of MPA (Motion Pictures Export Association of America) provided the pay-

ment is made by the Importers, directly outside the country without involving any foreign exchange component or any repatriation.

This scheme will be operative on experimental basis for 6 months and on Sept 1 it will be reviewed by the Ministry of Culture.

The Association of Film Distributors would give names of 30 foreign films to the Title Selection Committee of the NAFDEC for import.

The Title Committee will now have representatives of the Associations of the Distributors, the Exhibitors on it. The NAFDEC will take 10 per cent service charges on these imported films.

The procedures of the scheme will be finalised by NAFDEC in consultation with the Exhibitors Association and Distributors Associations.

The representatives of film industry expressed their complete satisfaction on the decisions taken, and thanked the Federal and provincial Ministers for sympathetic hearing of their point of view, and said that they would call off their strike immediately.

The meeting was attended, among others by the Finance Ministers of the Punjab, Sind, and NWFP, and Federal Secretary for Culture, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Secretary of Finance, Government of Sind, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Director, Excise Government of Baluchistan (APP).

GOLD, SILVER DEPOSITS FOUND AT SAINDAK

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] QUETTA, Feb 28: The copper field discovered in the Saundak area of Chaghi District of Baluchistan also contains 2.24 million ounces of gold and 2.24 million ounces of silver reserves.

This was disclosed by Mr Israrullah, Director General of the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP), while addressing a Radio Press conference here.

According to him it also included, among other things, sulphur 37.77 million tons, molybdenum 20,374 tons, and iron 2.1 million tons.

The total value of these reserves, he said, stood at 9,311 million dollars.

Mr. Israrullah said that the Saundak copper reserves discovered as early as 1962 were 0.44, 0.43 and 0.34 per cent in north, south and east bodies respectively.

The DG dwelt at length mainly on the GSP activities in Baluchistan and further told that four other copper reserves had been located at Koh-e-Daleel, Dastaken, Darbancha and Ziarat Pir Sultan. Koh-e-Daleel deposits are the biggest of all the copper reserves discovered in this area. Detailed survey is now being carried out of the new discoveries, which he said, had now brought Pakistan on the copper map of the world.

Replying to a question, he said if extracted at the rate of 12,000 tons per day the Saundak copper deposits will last about 15 years and the entire reserves for about 65 years. Investment of 450 million dollars was needed for exploitation of the copper deposits, he stated, and added that certain foreign countries including Canada and Yugoslavia had shown interest in it.

Besides copper, the Chaghi District, he said, had also vast deposits of iron, ore, onyx and granite. Presently the iron ore deposits were to the extent of 20 million tons but after the detailed survey it might extend to 100 million tons, he added.

The DG further said that as a result of the survey carried out by the GSP so far in different parts of Baluchistan copper had also been found in Lasbela District. In addition to this byrite, chromite, and manganese have been located in this area, he stated.

In Khuzdar area of Kalat Division lead and zinc reserves to the tune of six million tons have been confirmed, besides large deposits of byrite.

Fluorite and dolomite have been found in Kalat, gypsum, coal and silica sand in Sibi, chromite and magnesite in Zhob and limestone in Quetta area, he further stated.

Mr Israrullah further told that in the Marri and Bugri area of Kohlu Agency gravity and magnetic survey had been carried out in an area of 35,000 sq. kms. He told a questioner that there were bright prospects of oil and more gas reserves besides the Suri and Pirkoh natural gas reserves.

Replying to yet another question, he said that geological mapping of the entire province of Baluchistan extending to 3,43,000 sq. kms had been carried out and 19 maps had already been printed and reports prepared. Aero-magnetic survey has been carried out in an area of 1,08,000 sq. kms. in collaboration with a foreign agency. The GSP has so far published 170 reports on the mineral potentials of Baluchistan, he said.

Mr. Israrullah said that the GSP had undertaken six special projects of which four were in Baluchistan. These included the Chaghi mineral project, Dukki Barkhan coal field in Loralai District, Shahrigh, Khost and Khanai coal deposits, and areas around Quetta like Degari, Sore Range, Pir Ismail, Narwar coal belt. In view of the energy crisis stress would be laid on the exploration and exploitation of the coal reserves in the sixth five-year-plan, he stated.—APP

INSURANCE CORPORATION TO OPEN BRANCHES IN GULF

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Mar 83 p 9

[Text]

DUBAI, Feb 28: The State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) proposes to open a number of new branches in the Gulf States during this year.

The Corporation which is ranked third among the seven life insurance companies operating in the UAE plans to expand its activities in the Emirates with two new offices at Al-Ain and Sharjah shortly.

The SLIC will also open new offices at Kuwait and Qatar soon. The Corporation also has plans to open offices in Bahrain and Oman in 1984.

The Corporation was operating on a small basis in Kuwait, but these operations had now been reorganised and the new office will open in the first week of March. Likewise the Qatar office is expected to open by the middle of this year.

The SLIC is also expanding its group insurance activities in the UAE.—PPI.

CSO: 4600/411

ZIMBABWE RECRUITS PAKISTANI TECHNICIANS

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Mar 83 p 11

[Text]

Zimbabwe has recruited about 100 telecommunication technician-instructors from Pakistan, the visiting two-member delegation of the Zimbabwe P&T Corporation, Mr Walter Brown and Kenneth Manyonda, told PPI.

They said that Pakistan and Zimbabwe were "very good friends and the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe was very keen to expand closer ties between the two countries in all fields."

They said the Post & Telegraph Corporation of Zimbabwe had

launched a big training programme and for this purpose had sought technical assistance from Pakistan.

Initially 20 Pakistani technicians will go to Zimbabwe and as soon as accommodation is made available, the remaining 80 will proceed. They will be employed for two years and the contract may be extended by one year.

Mr Brown and Mr Manyonda are leaving for home this morning after a two-week stay in Pakistan, during which they visited Lahore and Islamabad. PPI

CSO: 4600/411

MRD LEADER TALKS OF 'COBWEB OF SUPER POWER RIVALRY'

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Mar 83 p 11

[Article by Hazoor Ahmed Shah]

[Text]

Mr. Mairaj Mohammad Khan, Convener of the MRD, has asked the government to take the nation into confidence about the 3.2 bn dollars package deal with the United States.

In an interview he warned the people against the consequences of Pakistan being caught in the 'cobweb of Super-Power rivalry' in view of its geo-political location.

Referring to some "feelers" on the Kashmir issue, he pointed out that Pakistan was committed to a just solution of the problem on the basis of the Kashmiri people's right of self-determination, a right acknowledged by the UN.

Reverting to the internal situation, Mr. Khan, who is also the Pres-

ident of the defunct Quami Mahaz-i-Azadi, said that any attempt to "repeal or paralyse" the 1973 Constitution would not be accepted.

He said restrictions on the movement of political leaders and the continuing ban on political activity were "aggravating the situation."

He said that Pakistan being inhabited by an overwhelming majority of Muslims, there could be "no danger" to Islam.

He said while the situation was "explosive", the basic issues that could strengthen the unity of the people were being side-tracked and, instead, "superfluous matters were being blown out of proportion."

CSO: 4600/411

BRIEFS

COMMUNIST LITERATURE IN SIND--According to several reports received by HURMAT from the interior of Sind, communist literature is quite visible in many villages there. The literature is being distributed largely in educational institutions and bar councils. It deals with the miserable conditions of the "poor Haris" [i.e., peasants] in detail and tries to prove through various arguments and statistics that Islam can offer no solution to the Haris' problems. The communist literature also describes how Sind is being overtaken [?by communism]. [Text] [Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 10 Mar 83 p 4]

STUDENT UNION CURBS--In view of the increasing interest shown by students in politics and the relatively free use of weapons in the educational institutions, the authorities and ministries concerned [with students' affairs] are coming to the conclusion that the present system of student union formation should be curbed for some time. The objective is to keep the students away from politics and also to create a better educational environment. It is being said that no student union elections will be allowed next year. [Text] [Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 10 Mar 83 p 4]

SOVIET INTEREST IN PAKISTAN'S DEVELOPMENT--HURMAT has learned through irrefutable sources that the Soviet ambassador in Pakistan, Mr. V. S. Smirnov recently had long meetings with President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr Mahbubul Haq. During these meetings the president and Planning Commission deputy chairman are said to have welcomed Russia's interest in the economic progress of Pakistan and stated that Pakistan will welcome Soviet participation in some of its development plans. As a result of these discussions, [Foreign] Secretary Niaz A. Naik has sent a letter to the Soviet ambassador detailing the projects in which the Soviets can help Pakistan. [Text] [Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 17 Mar 83 p 4]

'TREATMENT' FOR PPP LEADERS--Sources of the defunct Pakistan People's Party have said that after the departure of Begum Bhutto, Hafiz Pirzada, and Mumtaz Bhutto and others for "treatment" abroad, some more leaders of the party are planning to go out of the country "for treatment" and are busy consulting their physicians in this regard. [Text] [Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 17 Mar 83 p 4]

AGREEMENT ON POTATO RESEARCH--Islamabad, Feb 22: Pakistan and Switzerland today signed an agreement on "cooperative programme for research, productivity improvement and marketing of potatoes in Pakistan". Under the agreement the Swiss Government will provide technical assistance to Pakistan in the form of experts, training facilities and equipment. The research project aims at finding ways and means to reduce fluctuations in supply and prices of potatoes, to stabilize and improve income of potato growers, to study consumer and marketing system of potatoes and to cooperate with other national, bilateral and multilateral programmes of potato development. The agreement was signed by Paul Wipfli, ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan and Ejaz Ahmed Naik, Secretary, Economic Affairs Division on behalf of their respective governments.--APP. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 23 Feb 83 p 1]

VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS CONDEMNED--Lahore, March 1: Members of the Pakistan Women Lawyers Association have expressed concern over the violence against girl students in the Punjab University and called for exemplary punishment for the elements responsible for it. The association at an emergency meeting here yesterday through a resolution, criticised the "barbaric act", and demanded immediate action against the persons responsible for it. Such elements should be punished so that such incidents are not repeated and girl students feel secure in any educational institution", the resolution added.--PPI. [as published] [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 3]

TUFAIL SAYS NO CONFRONTATION--Lahore, March 1: Mian Tufail Mohammad Amir of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami, has said that his party does not want any sort of confrontation between the armed forces and the people. He was addressing the concluding session of "Taleem-i-deen" conference at Mansoor auditorium here yesterday. He said that Jamaat was supporting only those steps of the Government which had been taken for the transformation of society into Islamic one. He expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of Islamisation and asked how these laws could be implemented in letter and spirit when the members of the civil administration considered the Islamic laws as inhuman.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 10]

PPP MEMBERS IN WEST GERMANY--Frankfurt, Feb. 28: Members of the defunct Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) living in West Germany, intend to form an organisation, a spokesman for the group said here on Sunday. Speaking after a meeting of exiled members of the PPP, the spokesman said that the followers of Mr. Bhutto would strive for the re-establishment of democracy in their homeland. The organisation which, according to the spokesman, has some 500 registered sympathisers in the West German state of Hesse alone, would also support Pakistanis seeking political asylum in West Germany. The spokesman said that among those who attended the Sunday meeting here was former Pakistani Cabinet Minister Ghulam Hussein, who has been living in Sweden since Bhutto's ouster.--DPA. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 1 Mar 83 p 3]

PLANS TO MANUFACTURE TRUCKS, BUSES--ISLAMABAD, Feb 23: A scheme has been prepared by the Government to manufacture trucks and buses in the country. This information was given to the Majlis-i-Shoora by Lt. Gen Saeed Qadir, Minister for Production during the 'Question Hour' on Tuesday morning. Answering a question from Haji Muhammad Yunis Elahi, he said the scheme was presently under consideration in the Planning Division. He hoped it would be approved shortly. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 24 Feb 83 p 2]

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April 25, 1983